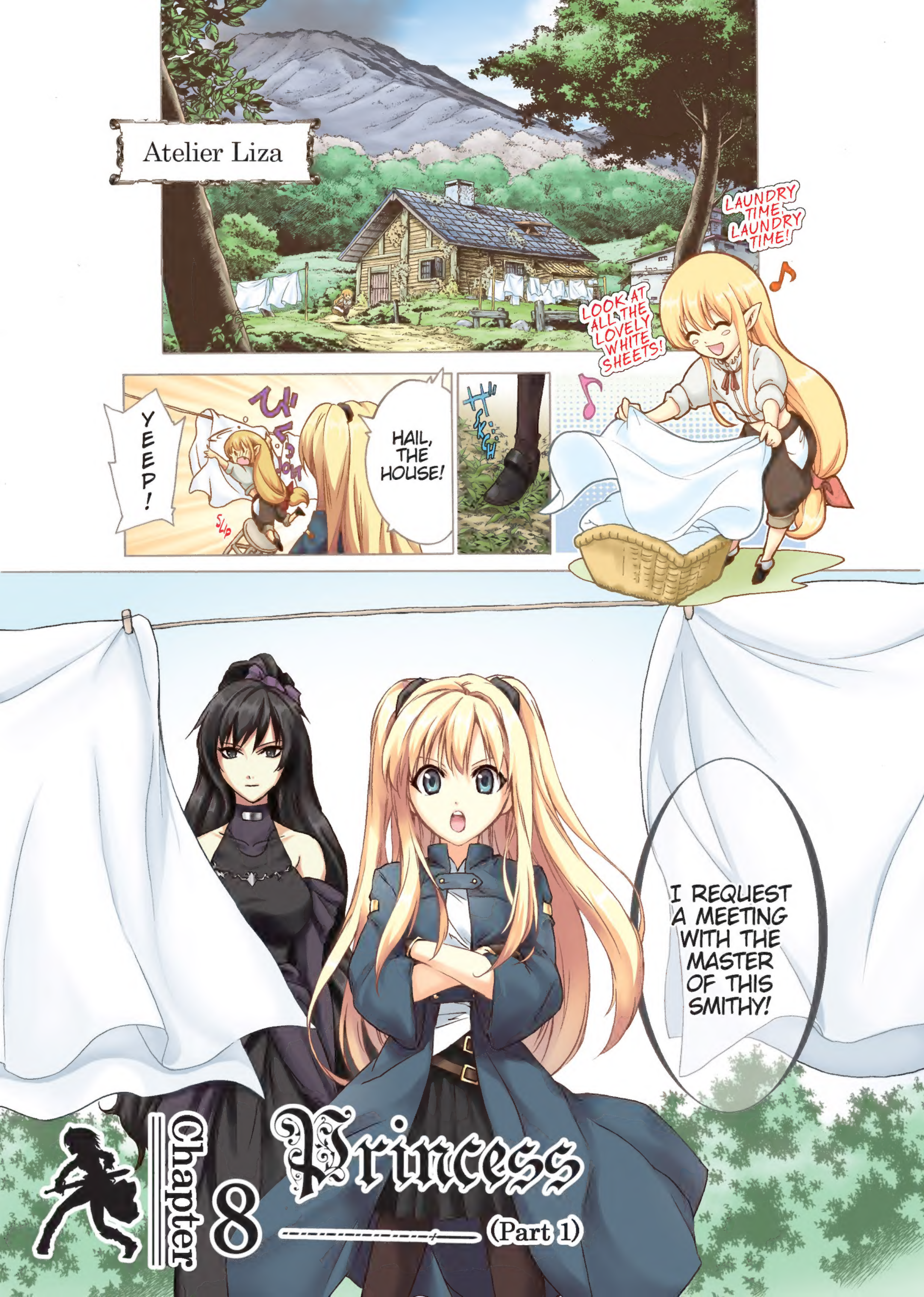
The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

3

story: **Isao Miura**
art: **Kotaro Yamada**


Atelier Liza
LAUNDRY TIME, LAUNDRY TIME!
LOOK AT ALL THE LOVELY WHITE SHEETS!
SKCH
HAIL, THE HOUSE!
びくっ JOLT
YEEP!
SLIP
I REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE MASTER OF THIS SMITHY!

Chapter 8 Princess

(Part 1)

There was the
that made full use of "devil contr
n a contin
it is ____ now
The Sacred Bla
The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶（ブラックスミス）
3

The Sacred Blacksmith

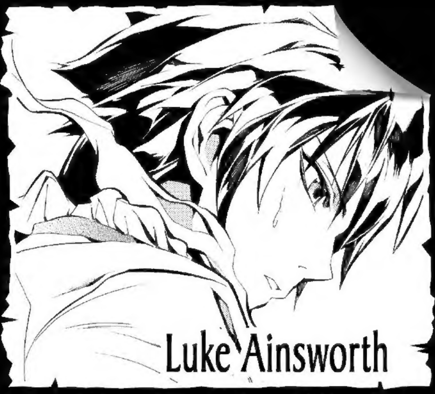
Volume 3

Art by
Kotaro Yamada

Story by
Isao Miura

Character Design by
Luna

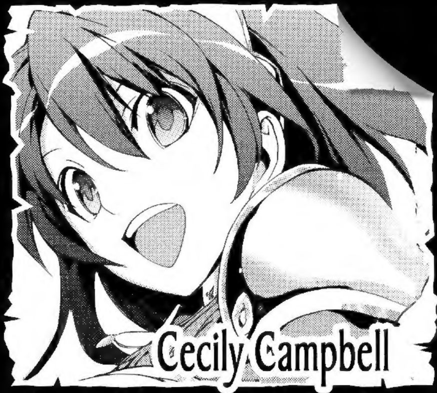
登場人物紹介 Characters



Luke Ainsworth

ルーク・エインズワース

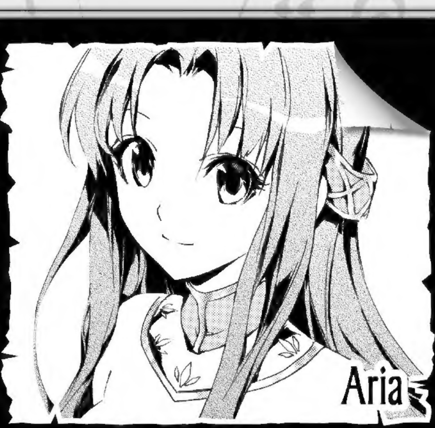
A proficient swordsman who uses an unusual blade called a "katana." Pessimistic and world-weary, he runs his own smithy.



Cecily Campbell

セシリー・キャンベル

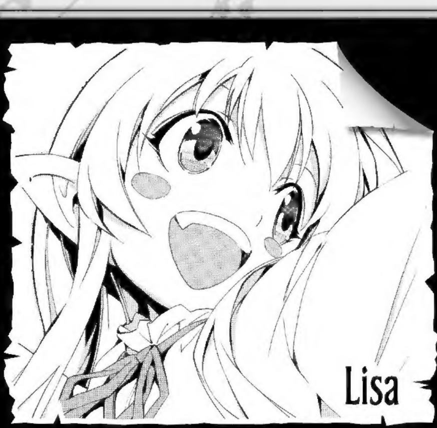
A young lady knight who is part of the Knight Guard, charged with defending the independent trade city of Housman. Ex-nobility, she has a strong sense of justice.



Aria

アリア

The "Demon Blade" of wind. A demon "born" at the end of the Valbanill War, she normally walks about as a human woman. However, she can turn into a rapier at will.



Lisa

リサ

The assistant who lives and works at Luke's smithy. Innocent and carefree, she loves talking with everyone. She says she is only three years old.

Supporting Cast

Hannibal Quasar

ハンニバル・クエイサー

Captain of the Third District Knight Guard, and Cecily's commander.

Hugo Housman

ヒューゴー・ハウスマン

The elected mayor of the independent trade city of Housman, where Cecily and Luke live.

あらすじ Story

聖剣の刀鍛冶（ブラックスミス） The Sacred Blacksmith

Decades ago, a great war raged across the continent. Called the "Valbanill War," it saw the widespread use of powerful Demon Pacts.
Forty-four years later, a young lady knight named Cecily Campbell meets a mysterious blacksmith named Luke Ainsworth, and asks him to forge for her a sword.

THIS IS ARIA.
I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED AS HER GUARD FOR A TIME.
I'M SO PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

HEH
ME TOO! ME TOO!
I WANT TO HOLD THE OTHER ONE!

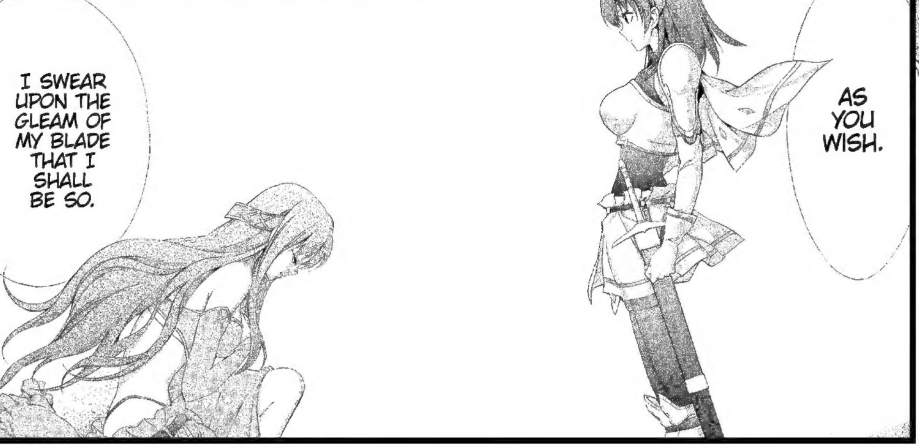
Chapter 5 Sword (Part 1)

Cecily is given the duty of guarding a woman named Aria, the "Demon Blade." Together with Lisa, the three enjoy the entertainments of the Market, held quarterly in the city.

But Aria is set to be sold during the Market's auction. Cecily is on hand to give a demonstration with Aria, but as soon as she changes into the Demon Blade, a monster attacks the Market, wanting Aria for himself...

Cecily fights the monster, swearing to save everyone she can, including Aria and even the monster itself. With Luke's help, she manages to defeat the monster and protect Aria.

I'M A DEMON, TOO.
I WILL SAVE YOU!


AS YOU WISH.
I SWEAR UPON THE GLEAM OF MY BLADE THAT I SHALL BE SO.

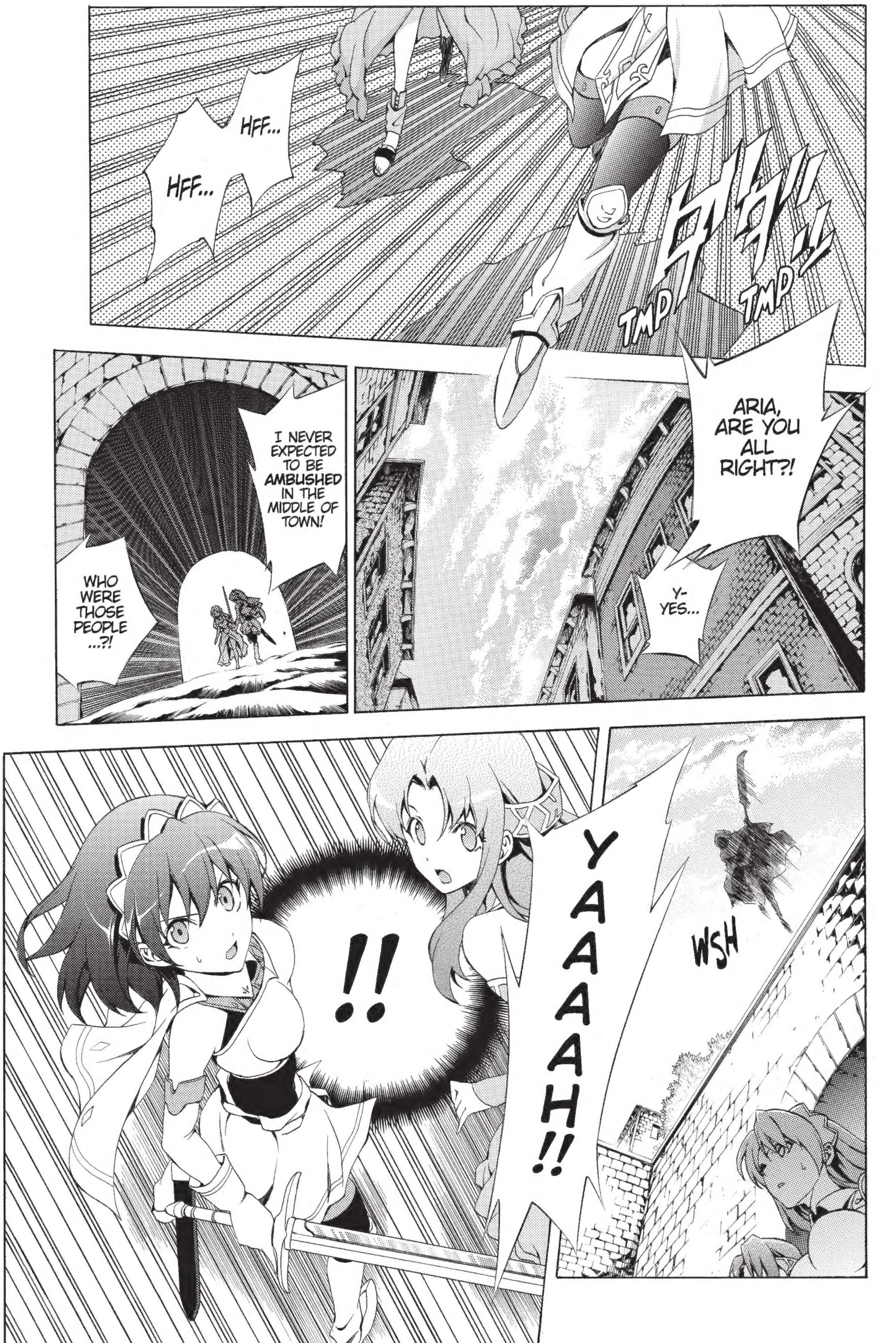
BLAIR VOLCANO...
IS THAT WHERE YOU ARE?
continued

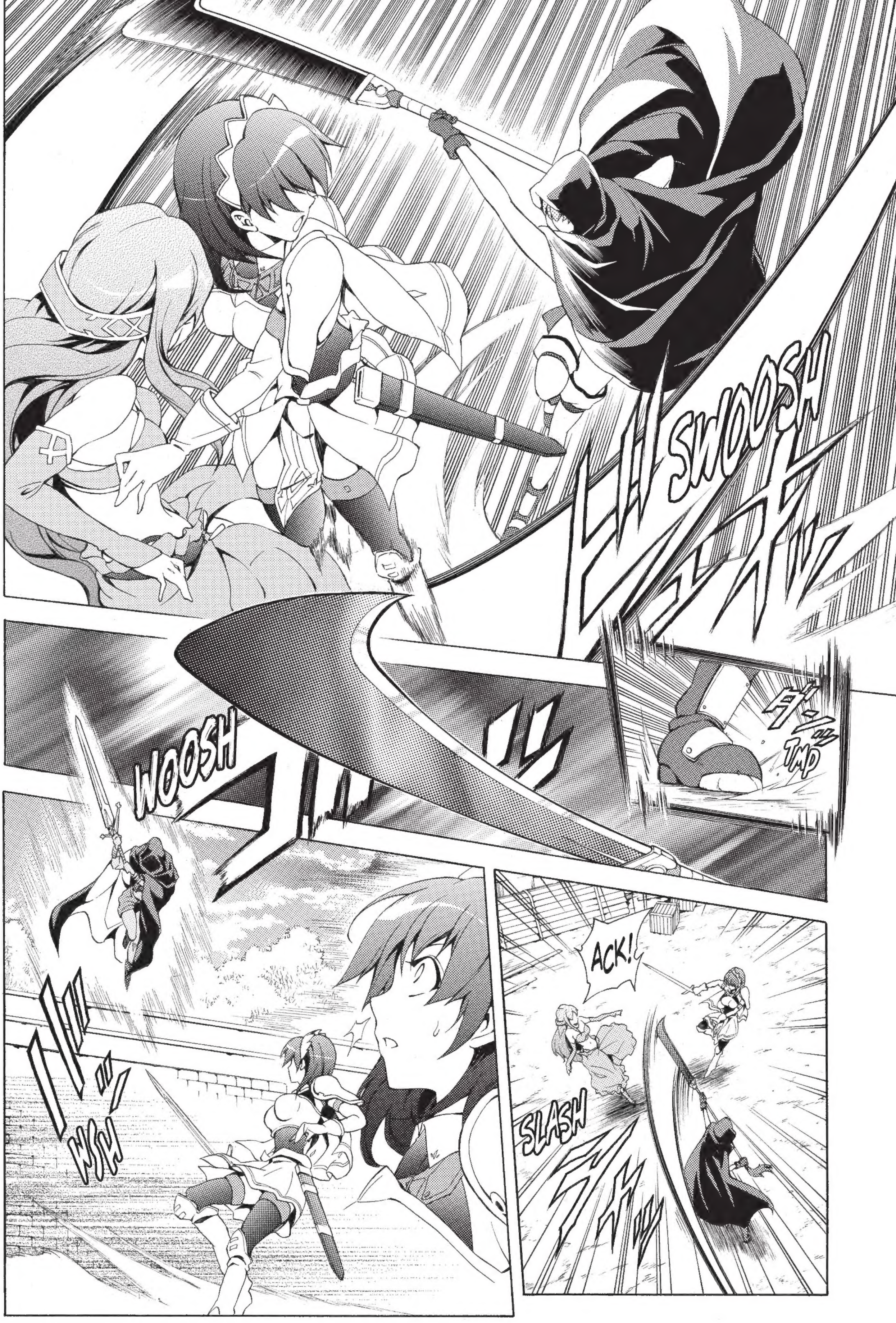
That event forges a strong bond of friendship between Cecily and Aria. With a fourth added to their group, Cecily and company return to their peaceful daily lives. However, Aria casts a meaningful glance in the direction of Blair Volcano...

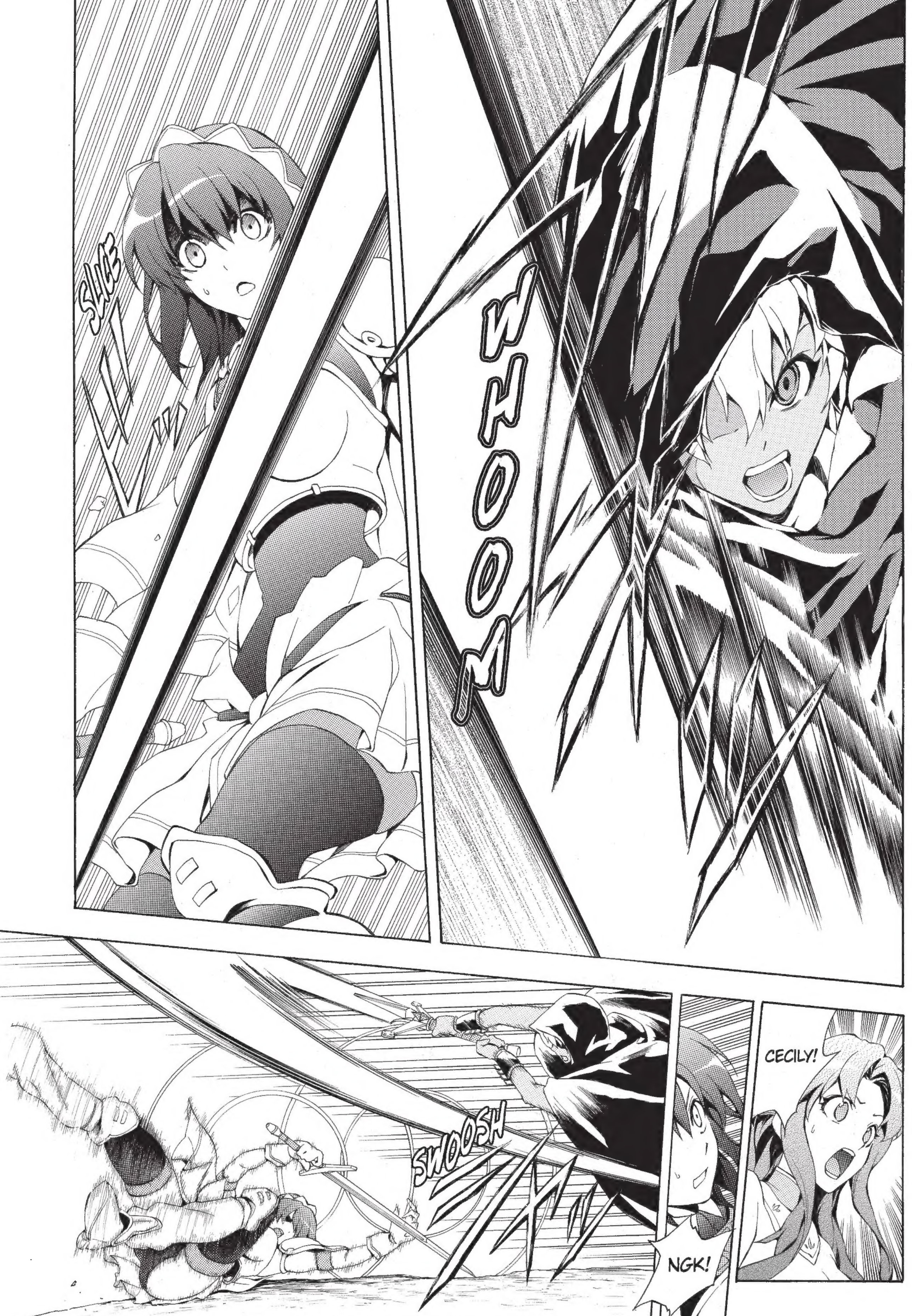
The Sacred Blacksmith

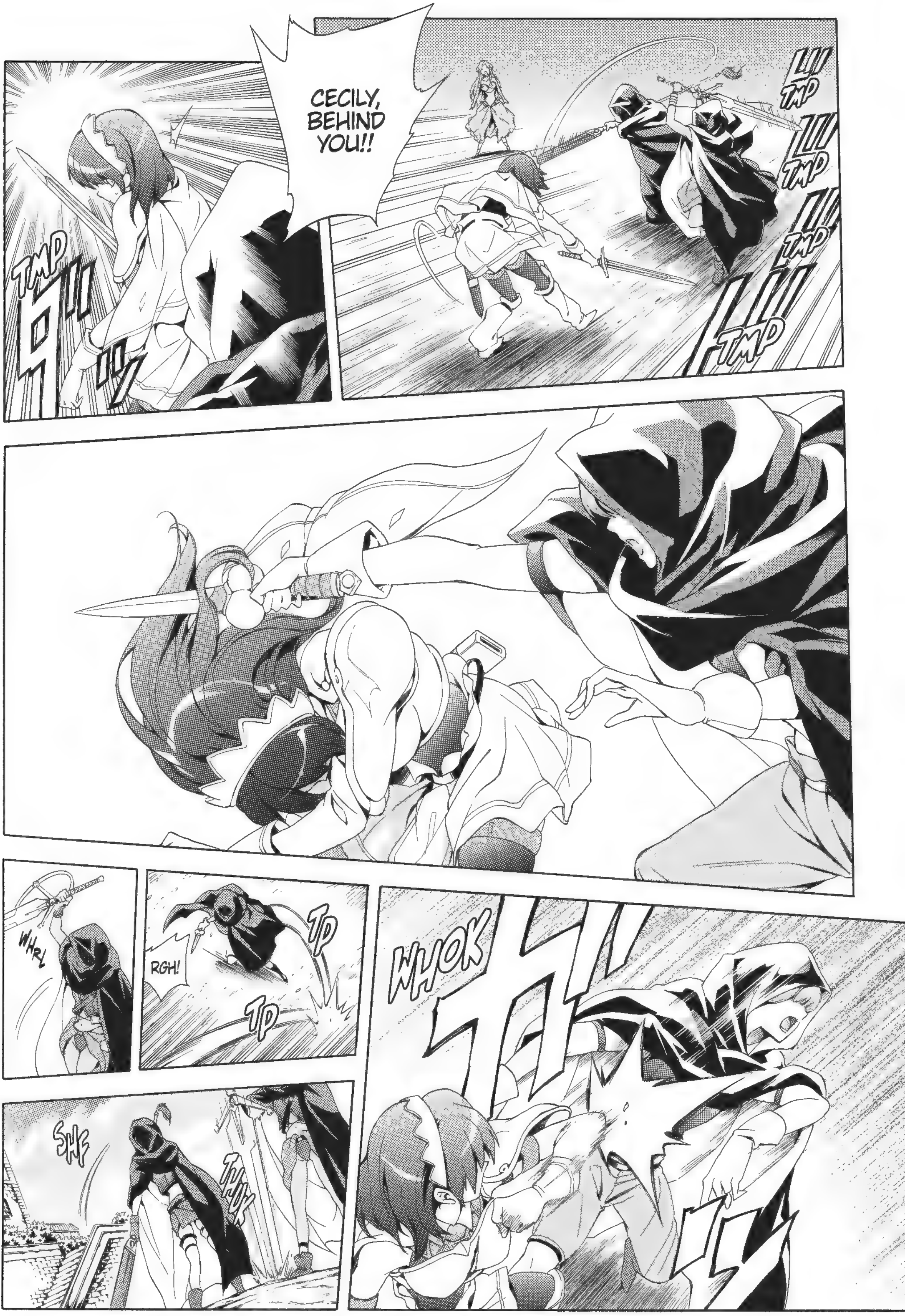
聖剣の刀鍛冶

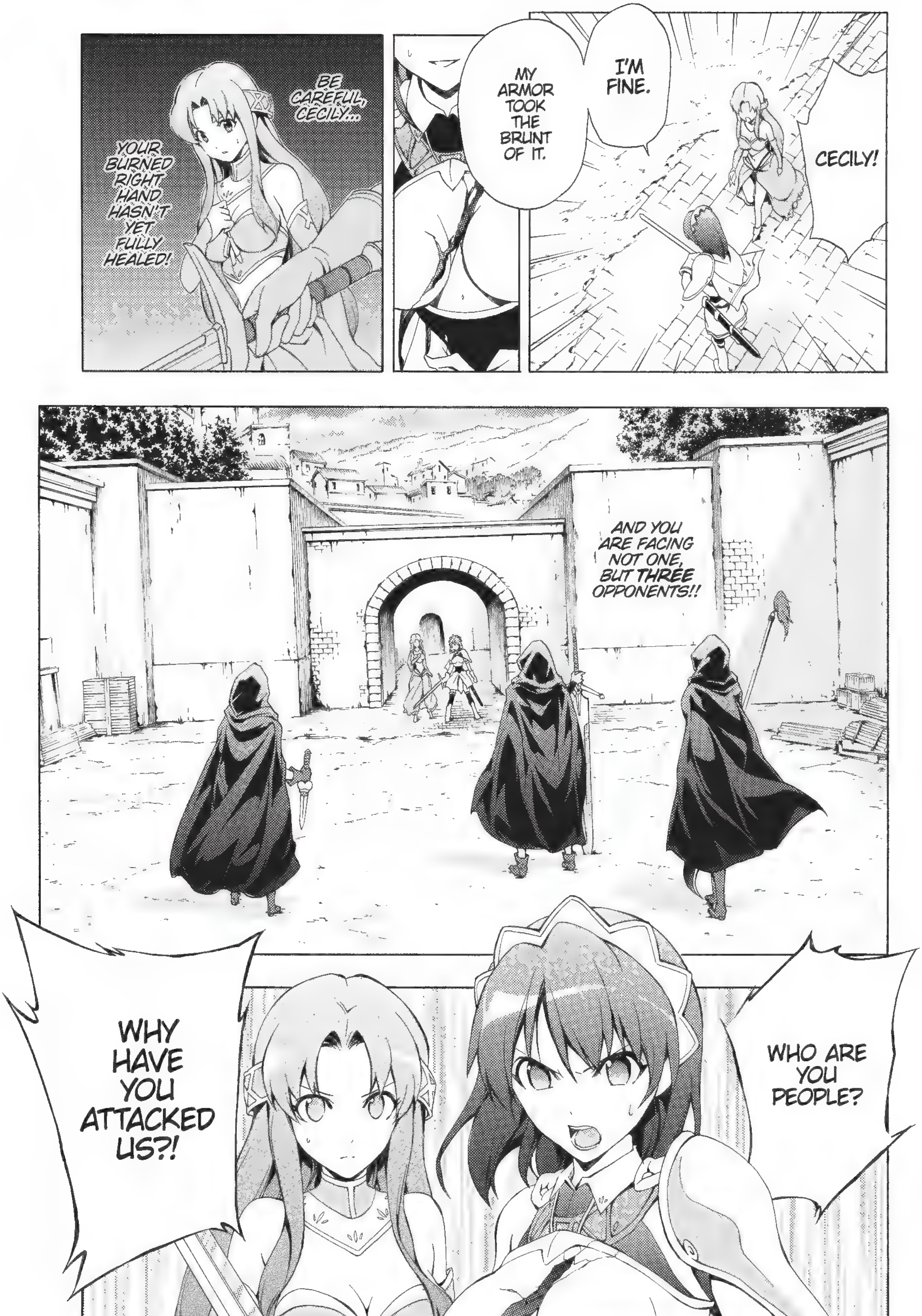
ブラックスミス

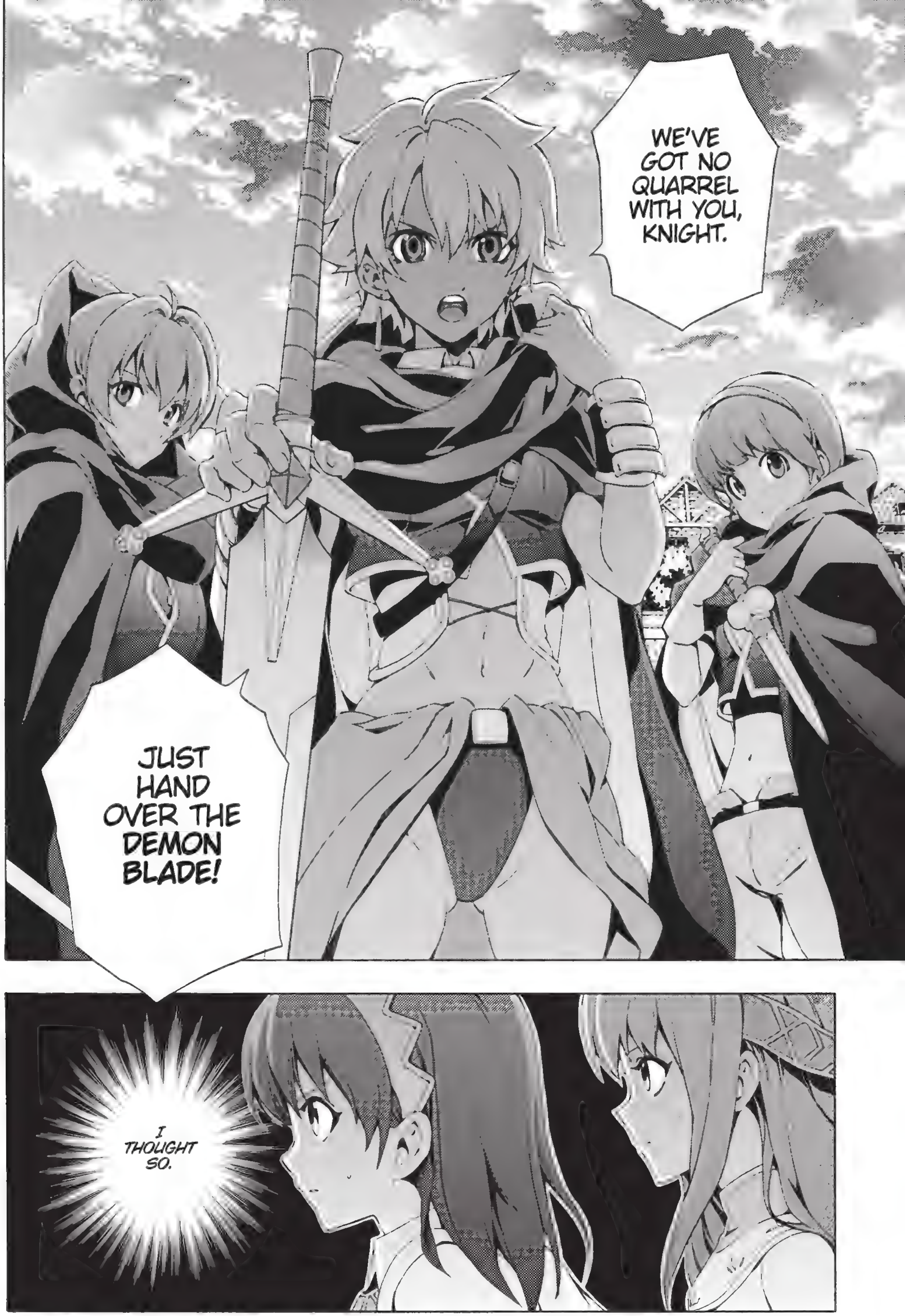

HFF...
HFF...
TMP
TMP
ARIA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
Y-YES...
I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE AMBUSHED IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN!
WHO WERE THOSE PEOPLE ...?!
WSH
YAAAAAH!!
!!

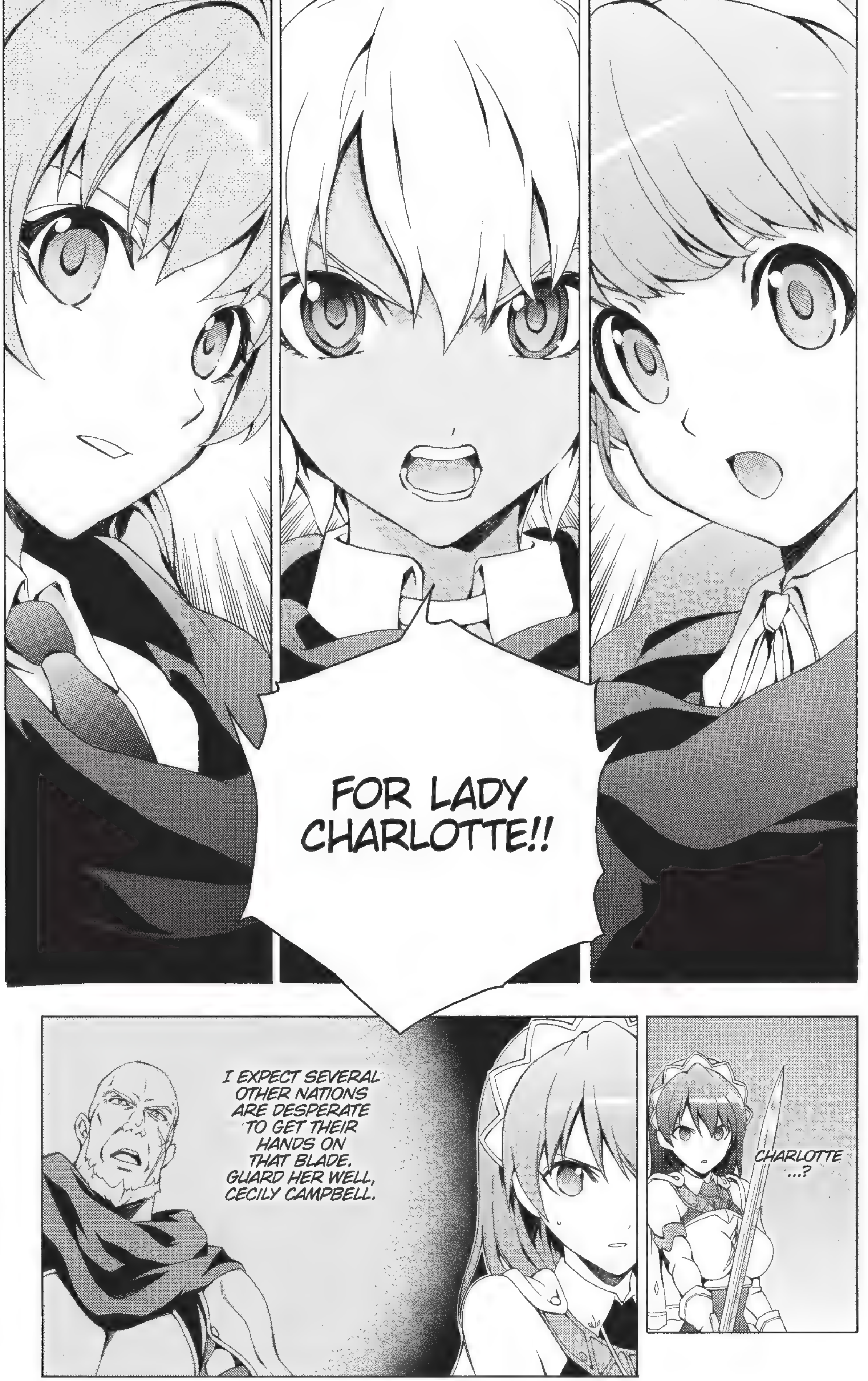

SWOOSH
ヒュオッ
ダンッ
TMP
WOOSH
WSH
ACK!
SLASH

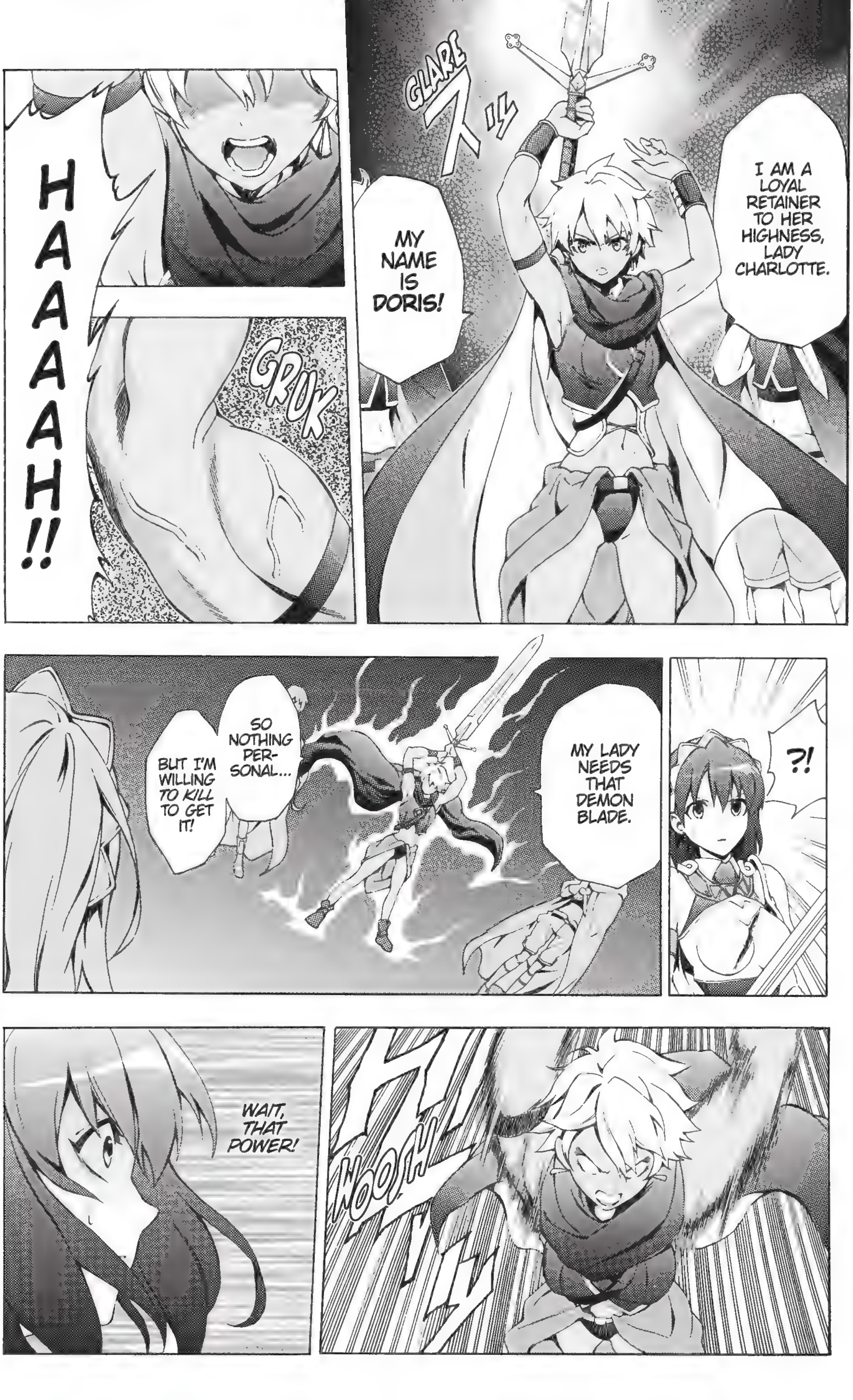

WHOOOM
SLICE
CECILY!
NGK!
SWOOSH

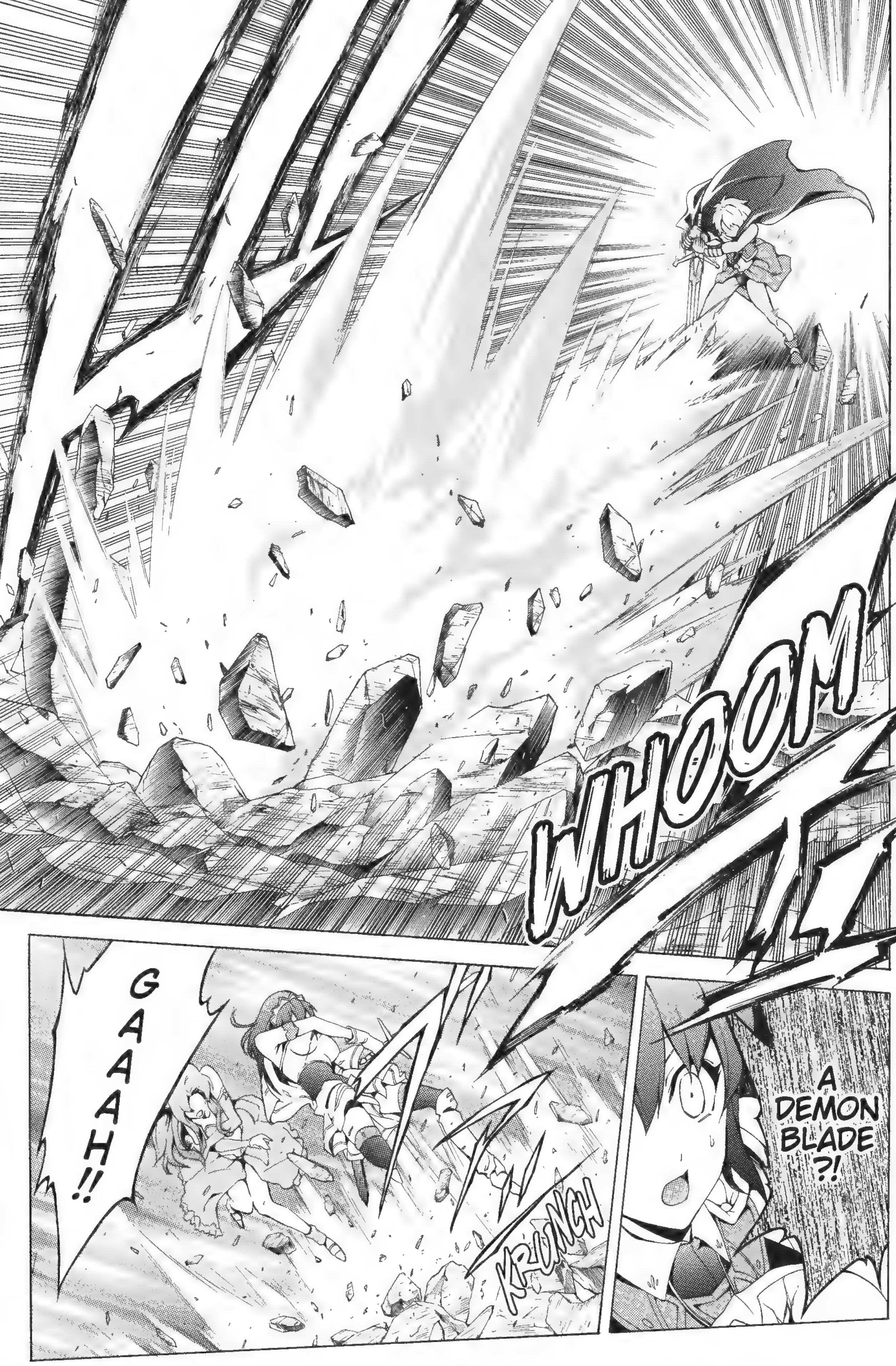

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
CECILY, BEHIND YOU!!
TMP
WHOK
TP
RGH!
TP
WHRL
SHF
THUK

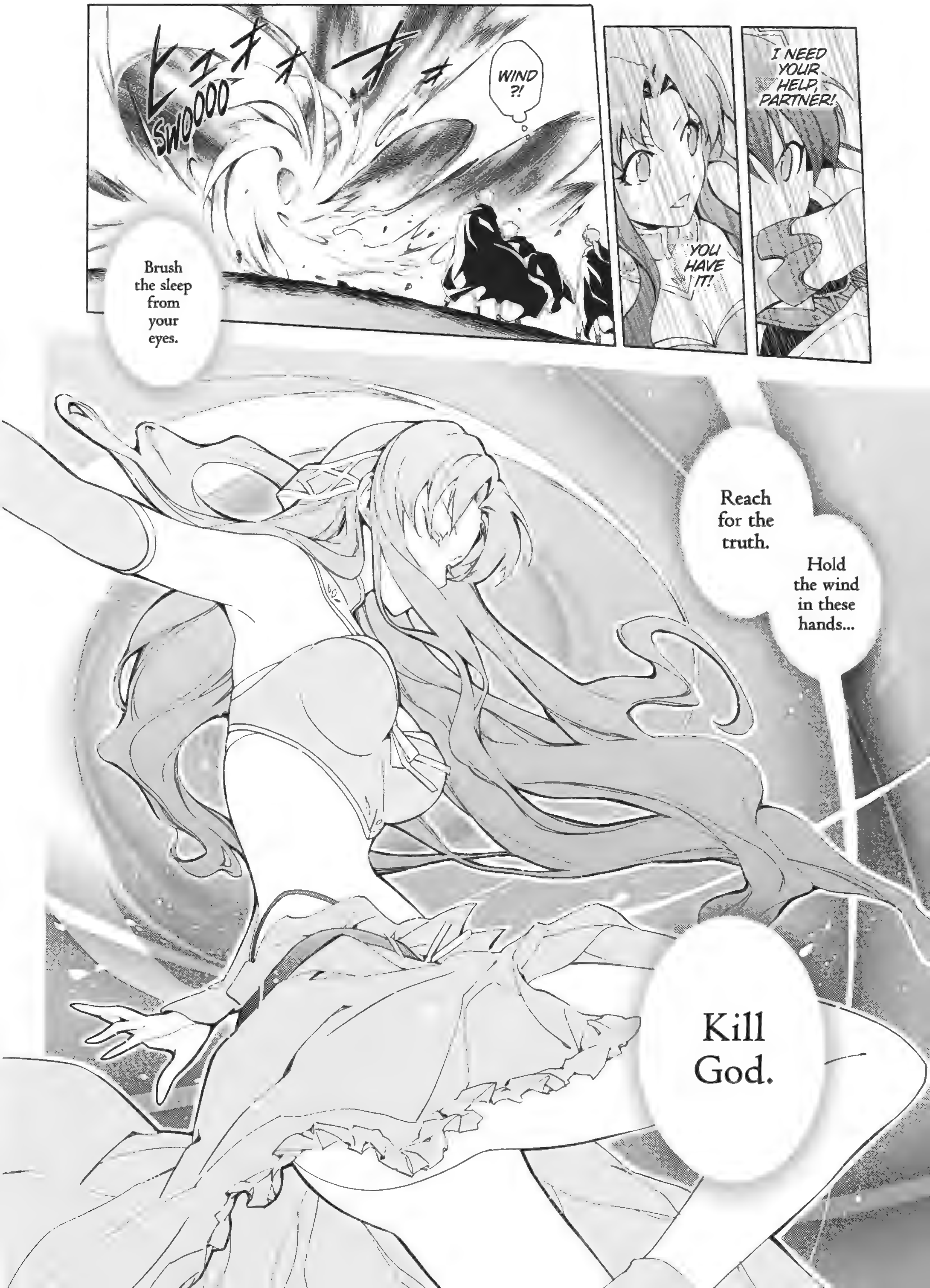

CECILY!
I'M FINE.
MY ARMOR TOOK THE BRUNT OF IT.
BE CAREFUL, CECILY...
YOUR BURNED RIGHT HAND HASN'T YET FULLY HEALED!
AND YOU ARE FACING NOT ONE, BUT THREE OPPONENTS!!
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
WHY HAVE YOU ATTACKED US?!

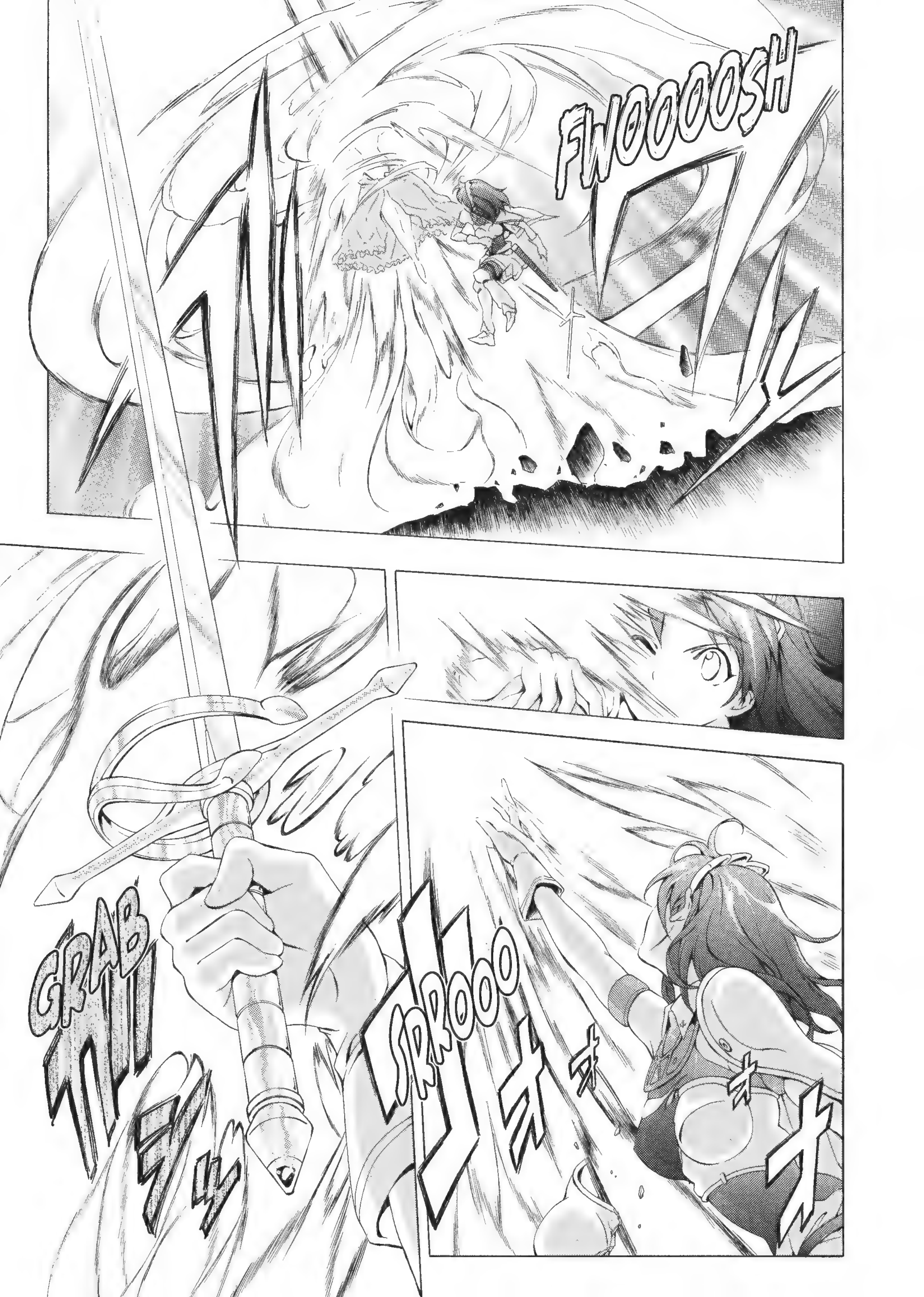

WE'VE GOT NO QUARREL WITH YOU, KNIGHT.
JUST HAND OVER THE DEMON BLADE!
I THOUGHT SO.

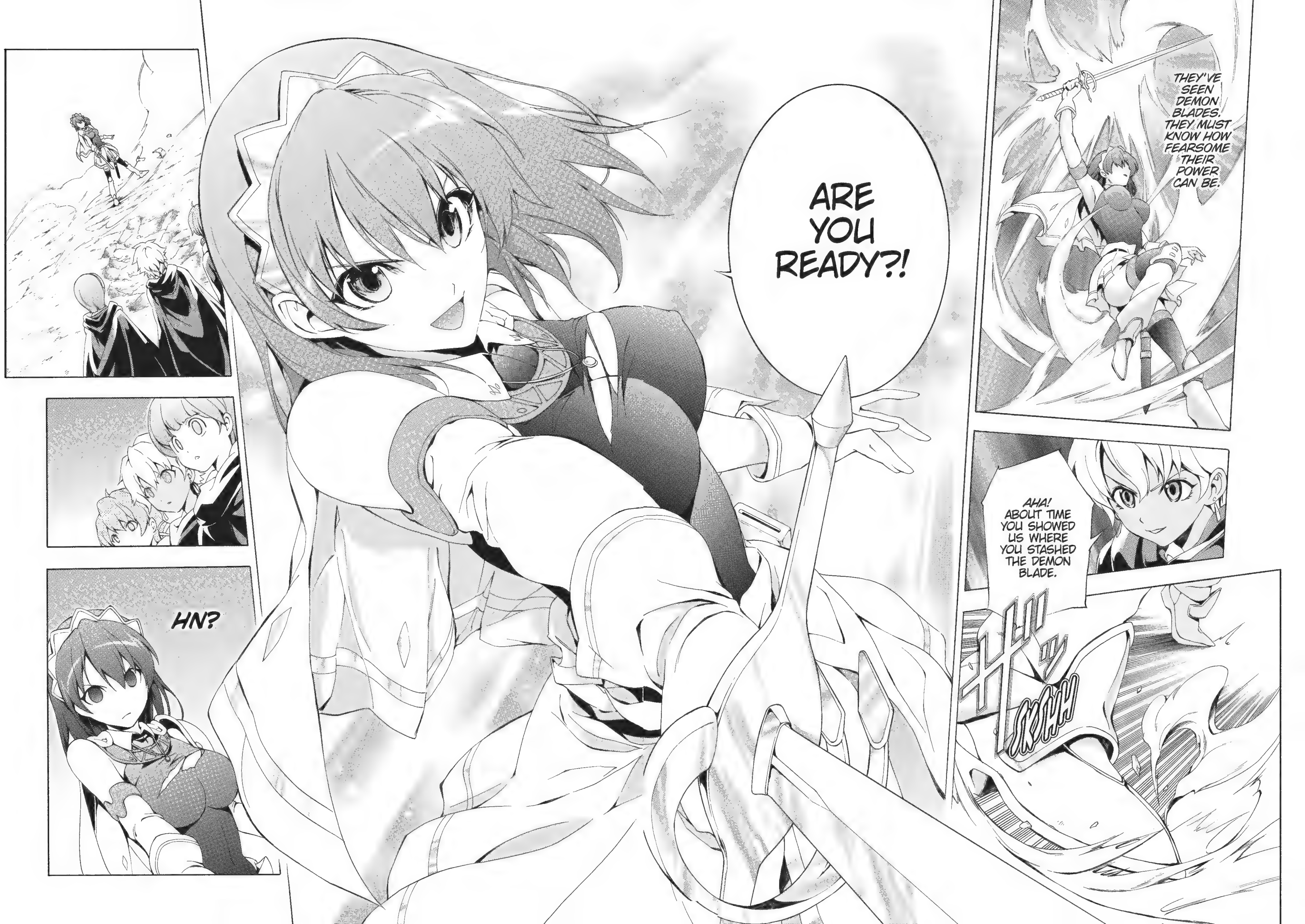

FOR LADY CHARLOTTE!!
CHARLOTTE ...?
I EXPECT SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS ARE DESPERATE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THAT BLADE. GUARD HER WELL, CECILY CAMPBELL.

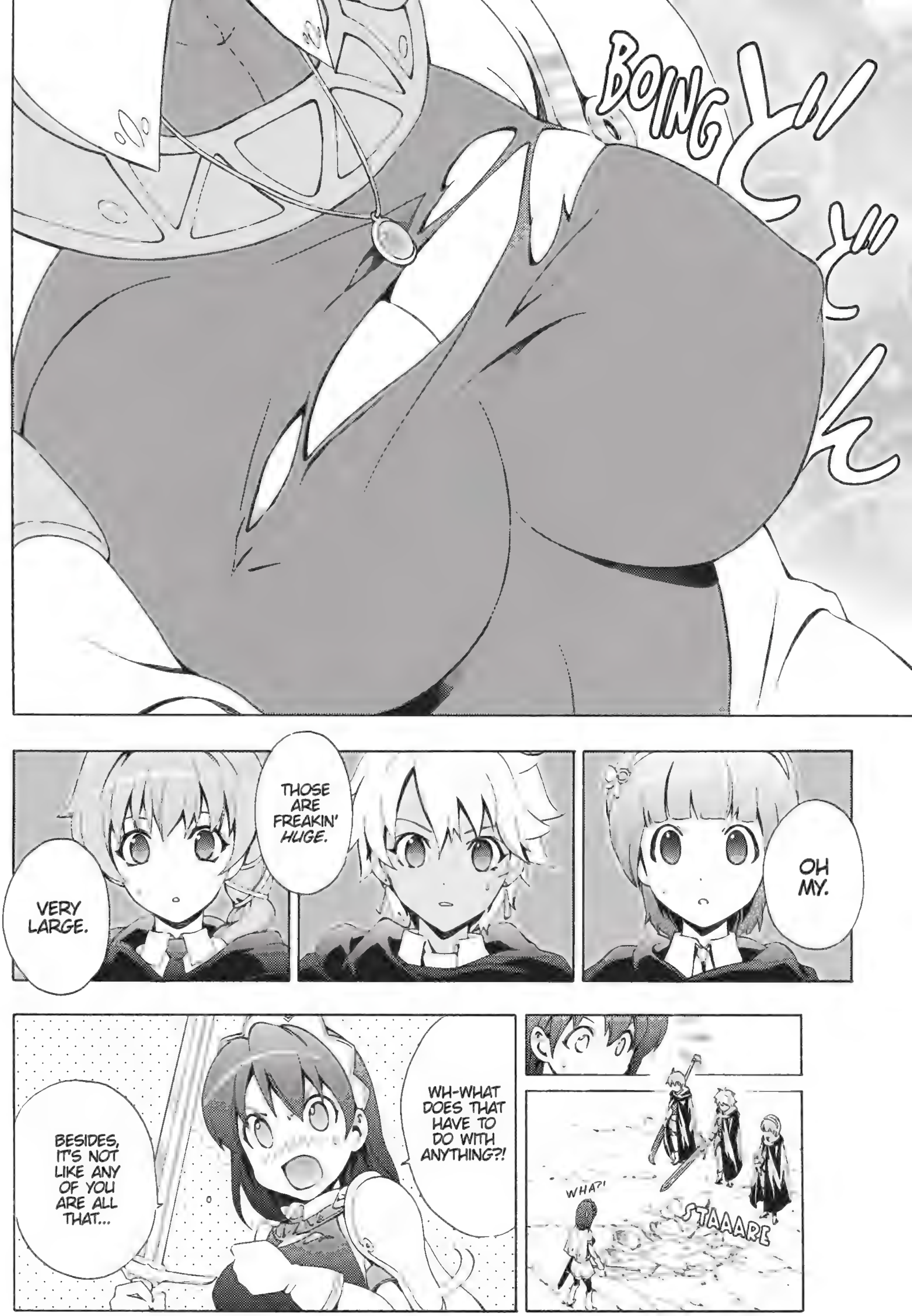

GLARE
スッ
I AM A LOYAL RETAINER TO HER HIGHNESS, LADY CHARLOTTE.
MY NAME IS DORIS!
HAAAAAAH!!
GRUK
?!
MY LADY NEEDS THAT DEMON BLADE.
SO NOTHING PERSONAL...
BUT I'M WILLING TO KILL TO GET IT!
WHOOSH
WAIT, THAT POWER!

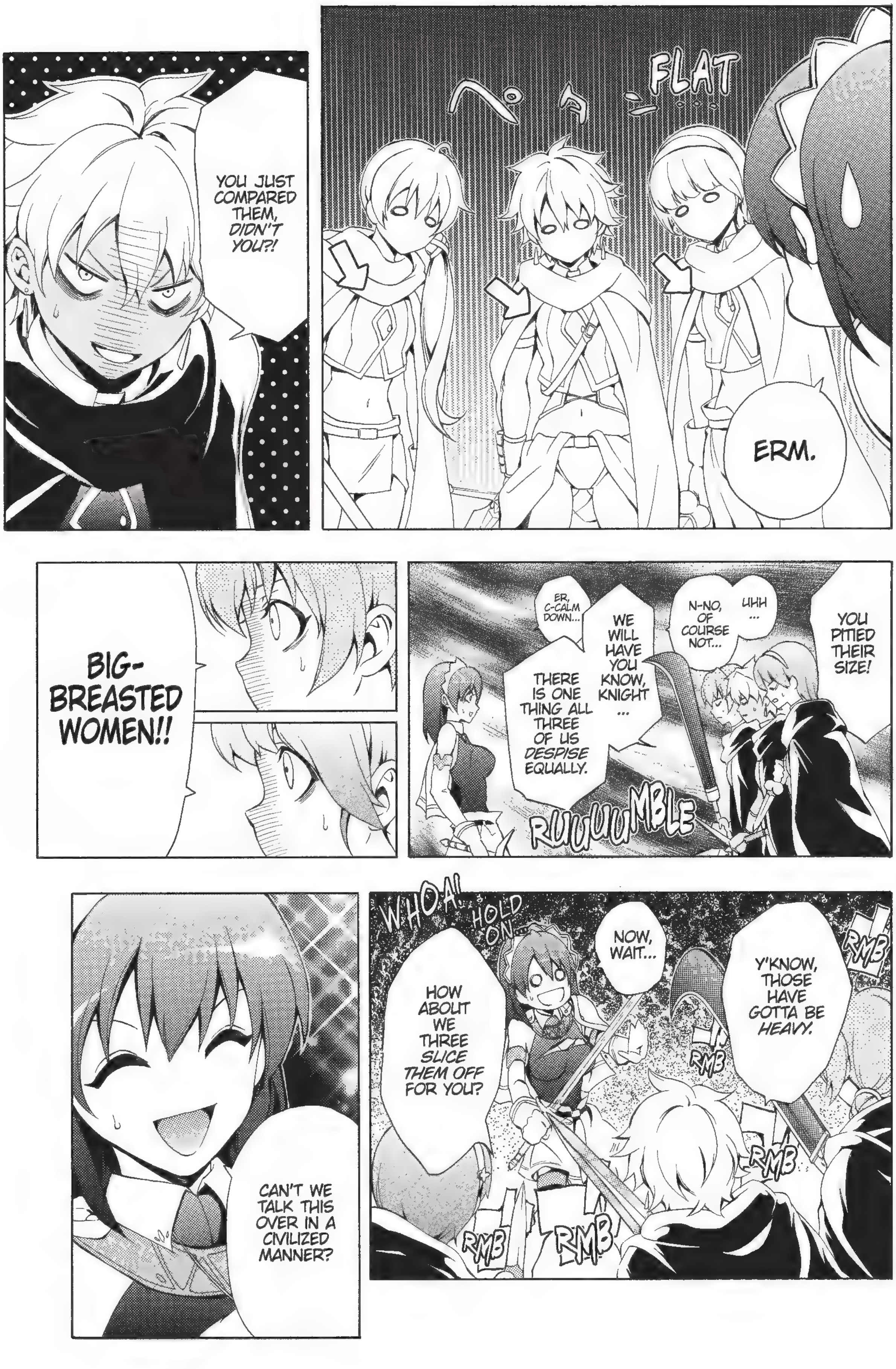

WHOOM
A DEMON BLADE?!
GAAAAH!!
KRUNCH

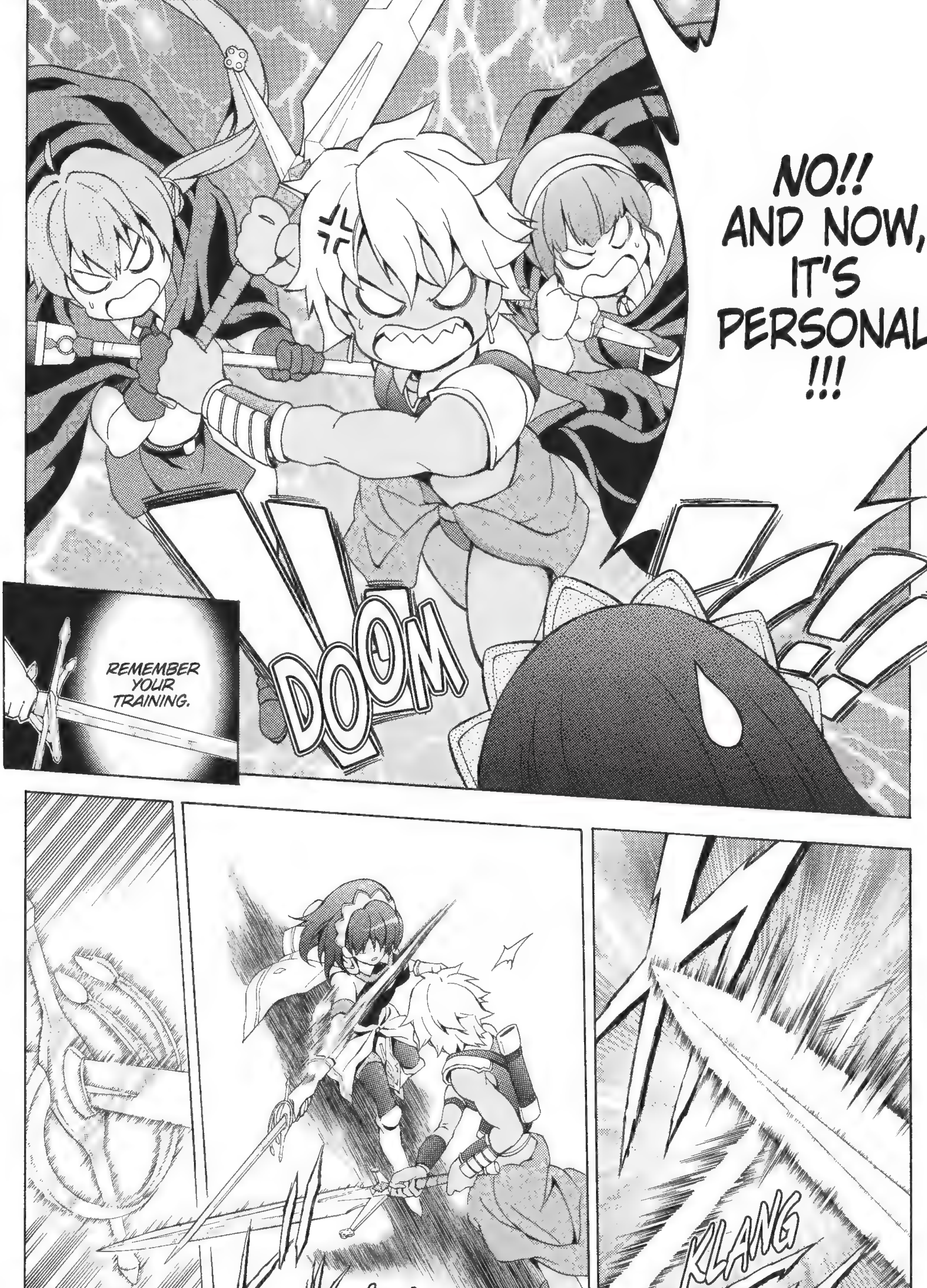

I NEED YOUR HELP, PARTNER!
YOU HAVE IT!
WIND ?!
ヒュオォォーォォ
SWOOOO
Brush the sleep from your eyes.
Reach for the truth.
Hold the wind in these hands...
Kill God.

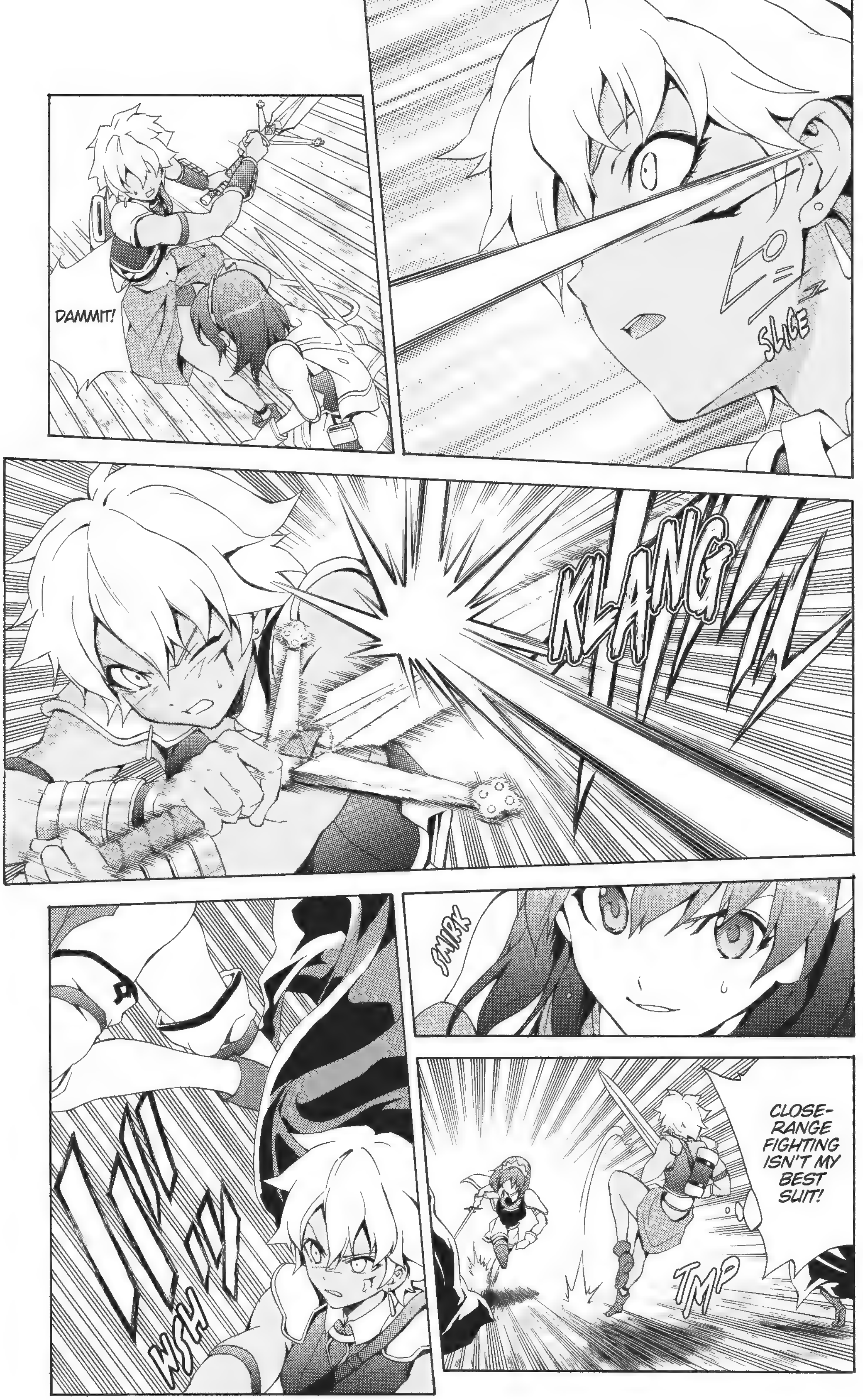

FWOOOOSH
SRROOO
GRAB

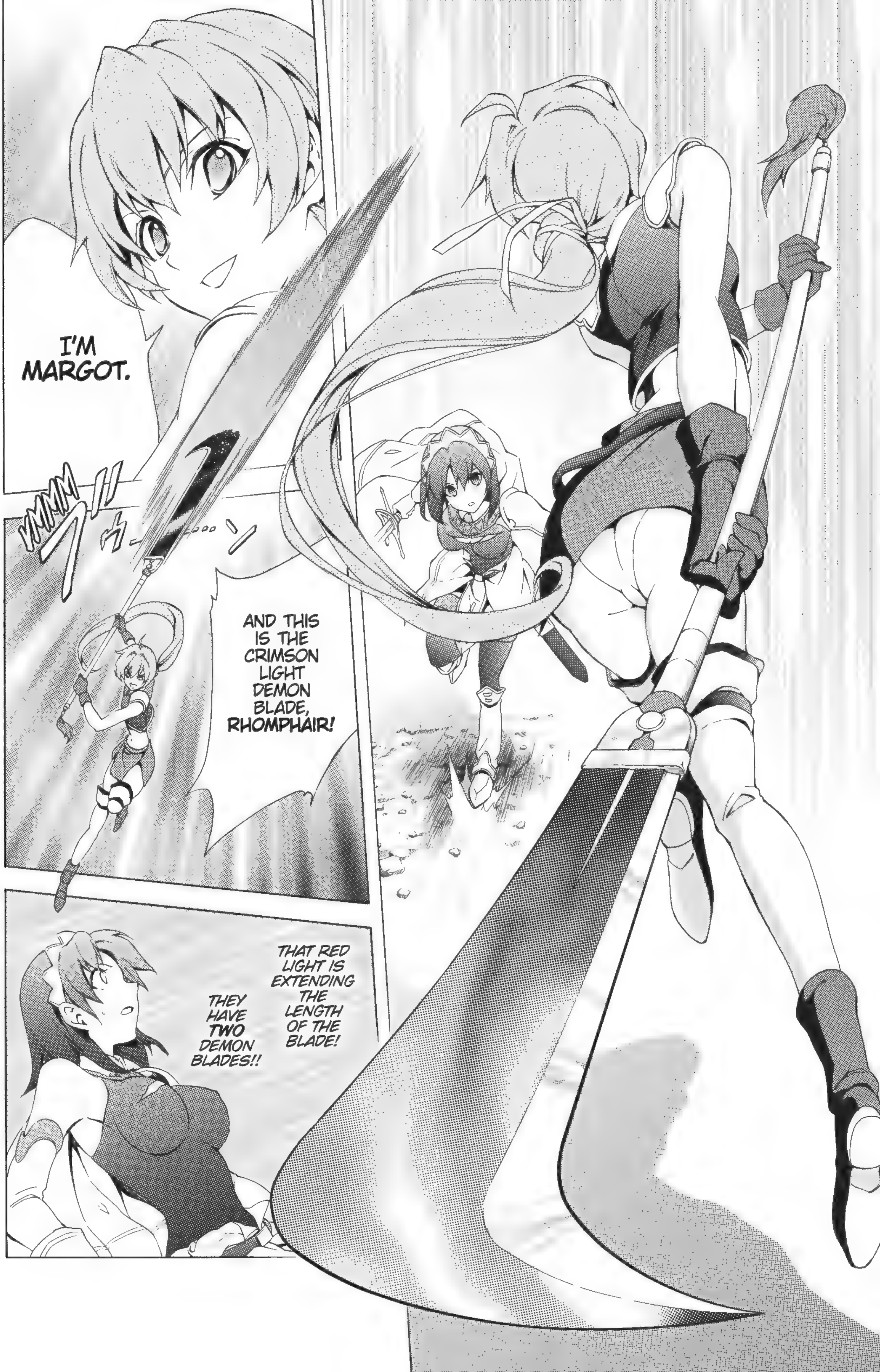

THEY'VE SEEN DEMON BLADES. THEY MUST KNOW HOW FEARSOME THEIR POWER CAN BE.
AHA! ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED US WHERE YOU STASHED THE DEMON BLADE.
ザッ
KSHH
ARE YOU READY?!
HN?

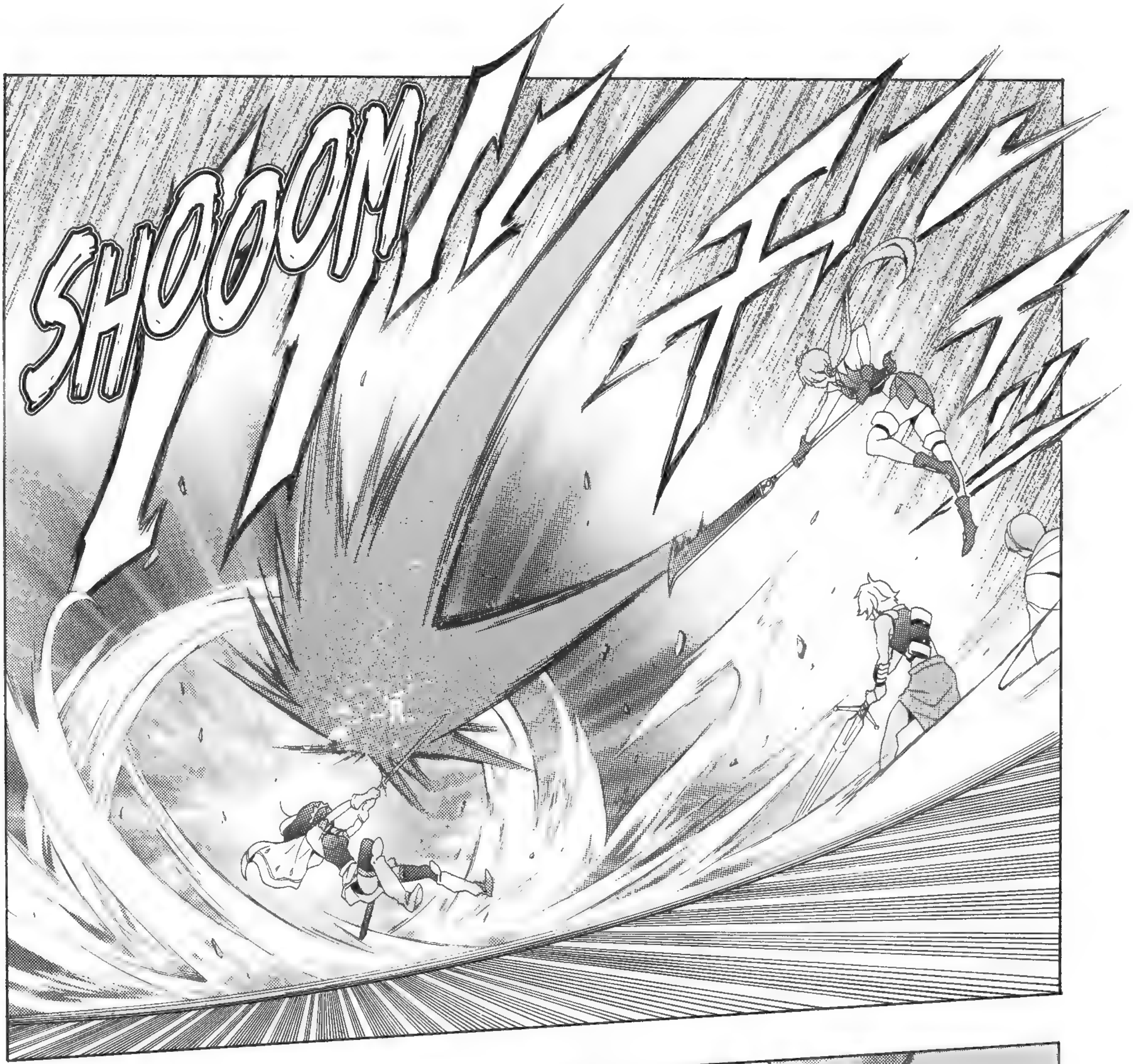

BOING
OH MY.
THOSE ARE FREAKIN' HUGE.
VERY LARGE.
WHA?!
STAAARE
WH-WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?!
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE ANY OF YOU ARE ALL THAT...

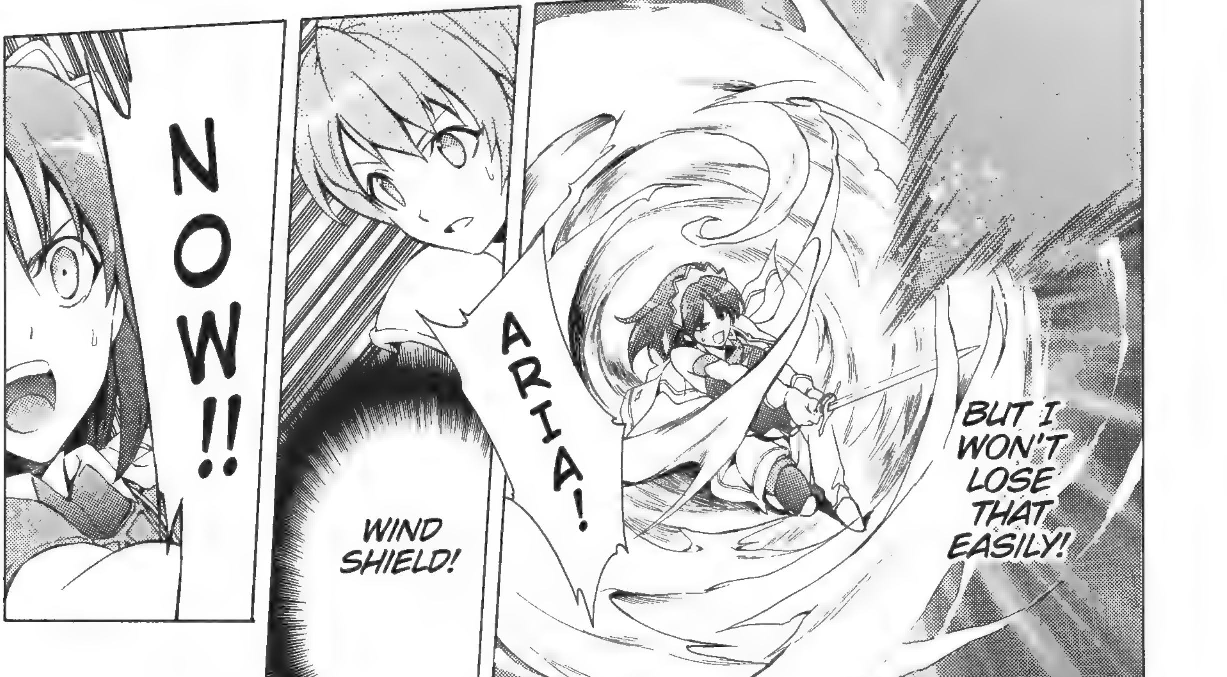

へ ぺ た ー
FLAT
ERM.
YOU JUST COMPARED THEM, *DIDN'T YOU?!*
YOU PITIED THEIR SIZE!
UHH ...
N-NO, OF COURSE NOT...
WE WILL HAVE YOU KNOW, KNIGHT ... THERE IS ONE THING ALL THREE OF US *DESPISE* EQUALLY.
ER, C-CALM DOWN...
RUUUUMBLE
BIG-BREASTED WOMEN!!
Y'KNOW, THOSE HAVE GOTTA BE *HEAVY.*
NOW, WAIT...
HOW ABOUT WE THREE *SLICE THEM OFF* FOR YOU?
WHOA! HOLD ON...
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
CAN'T WE TALK THIS OVER IN A CIVILIZED MANNER?

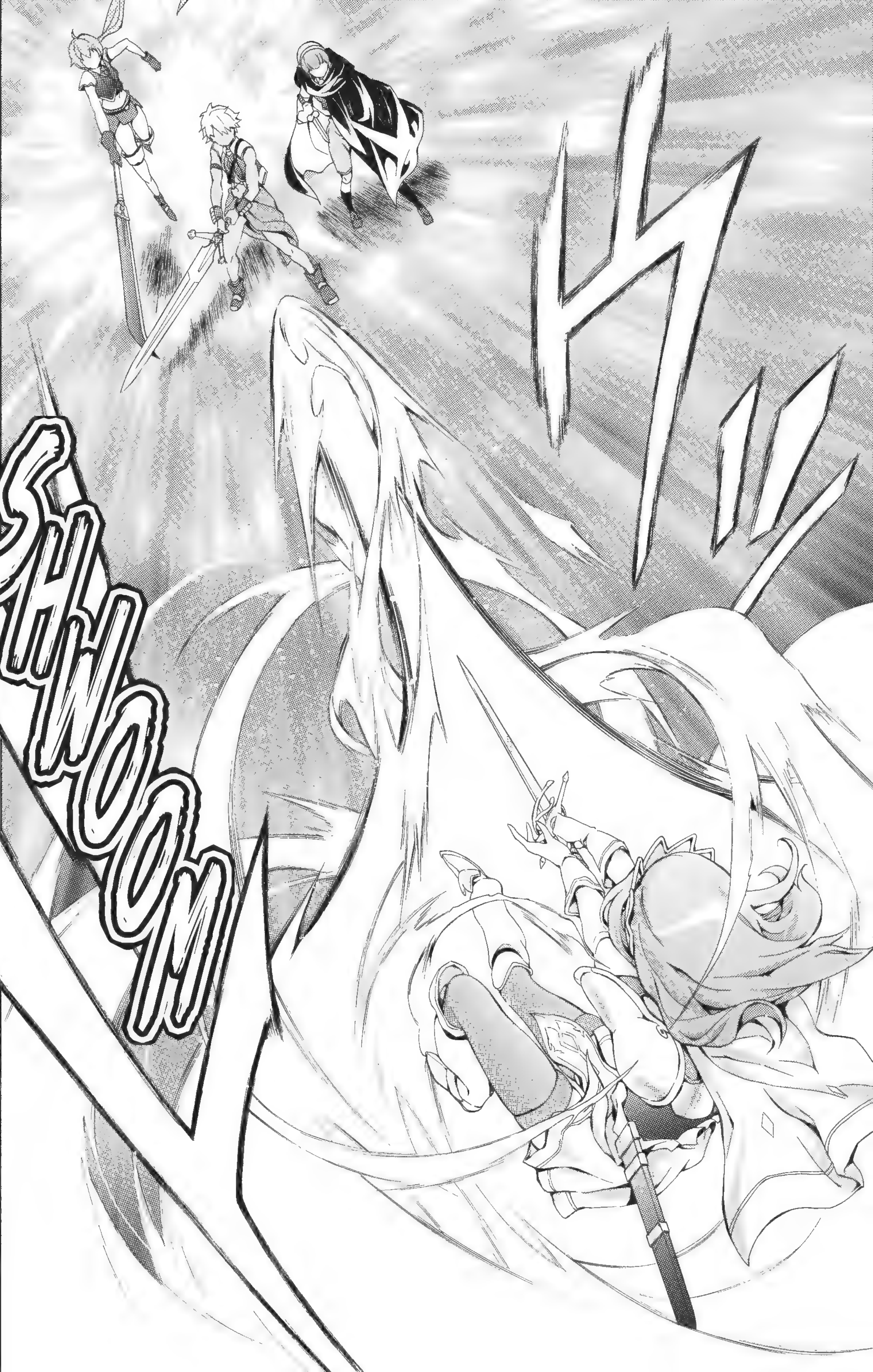

NO!! AND NOW, IT'S PERSONAL !!!
DOOM
REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING.
KLANG
SWISH

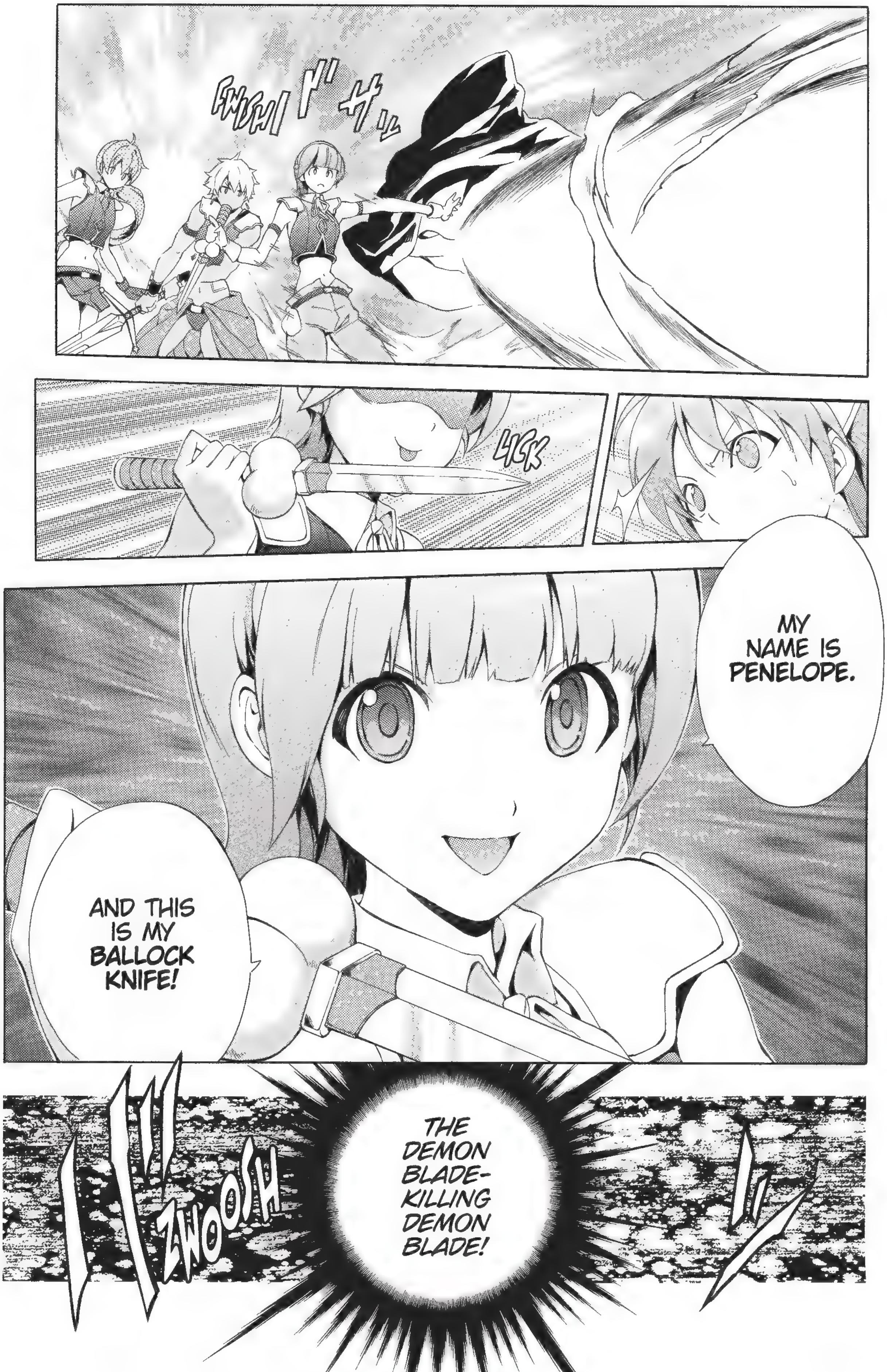

SLICE
DAMMIT!
KLANG
SMIRK
WSH
CLOSE-RANGE FIGHTING ISN'T MY BEST SUIT!
TMP

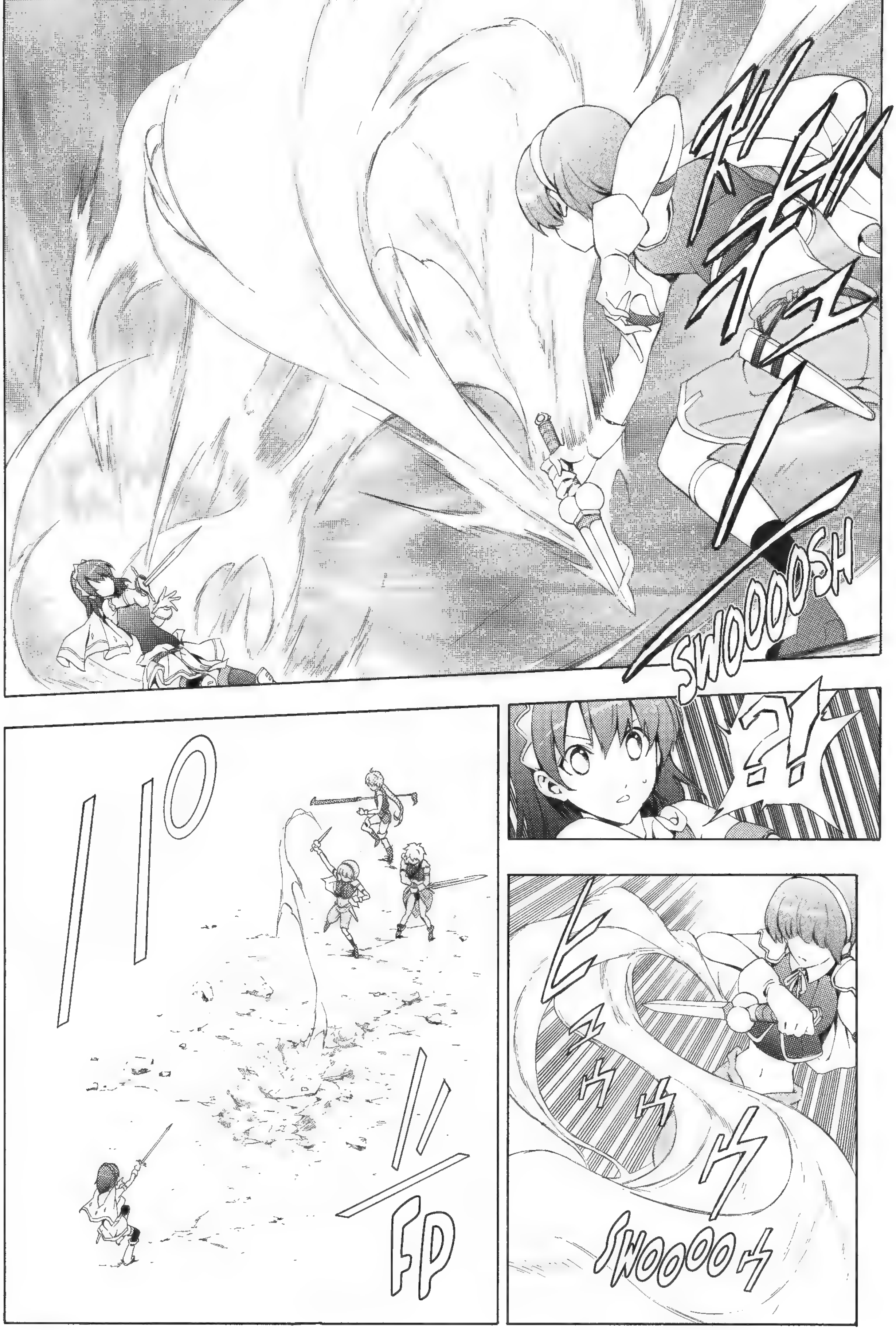

I'M MARGOT.
VMMM
ヴゥ…ン
AND THIS IS THE CRIMSON LIGHT DEMON BLADE, RHOMPHAIR!
THAT RED LIGHT IS EXTENDING THE LENGTH OF THE BLADE!
THEY HAVE TWO DEMON BLADES!!

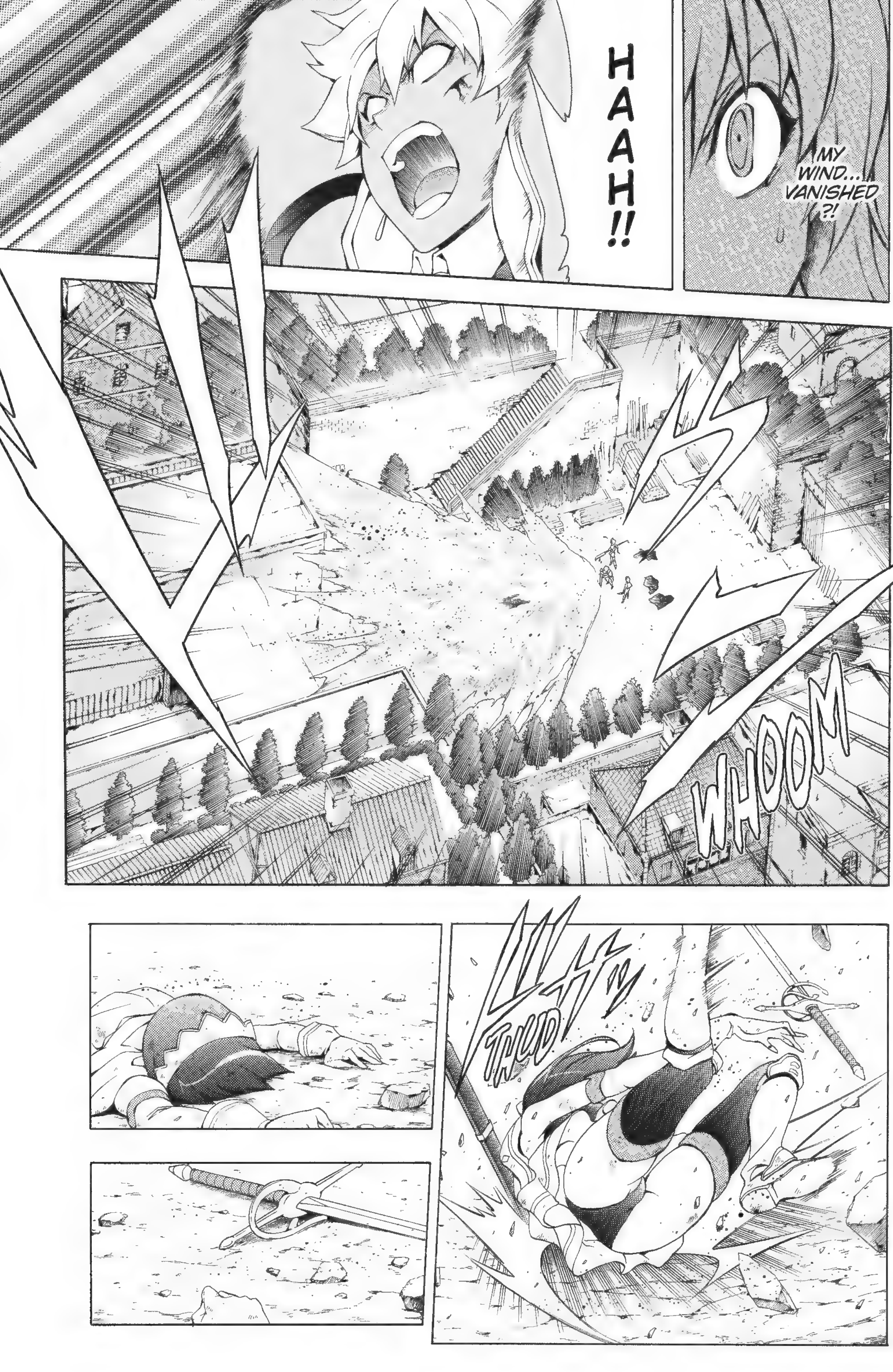

SHOOOM

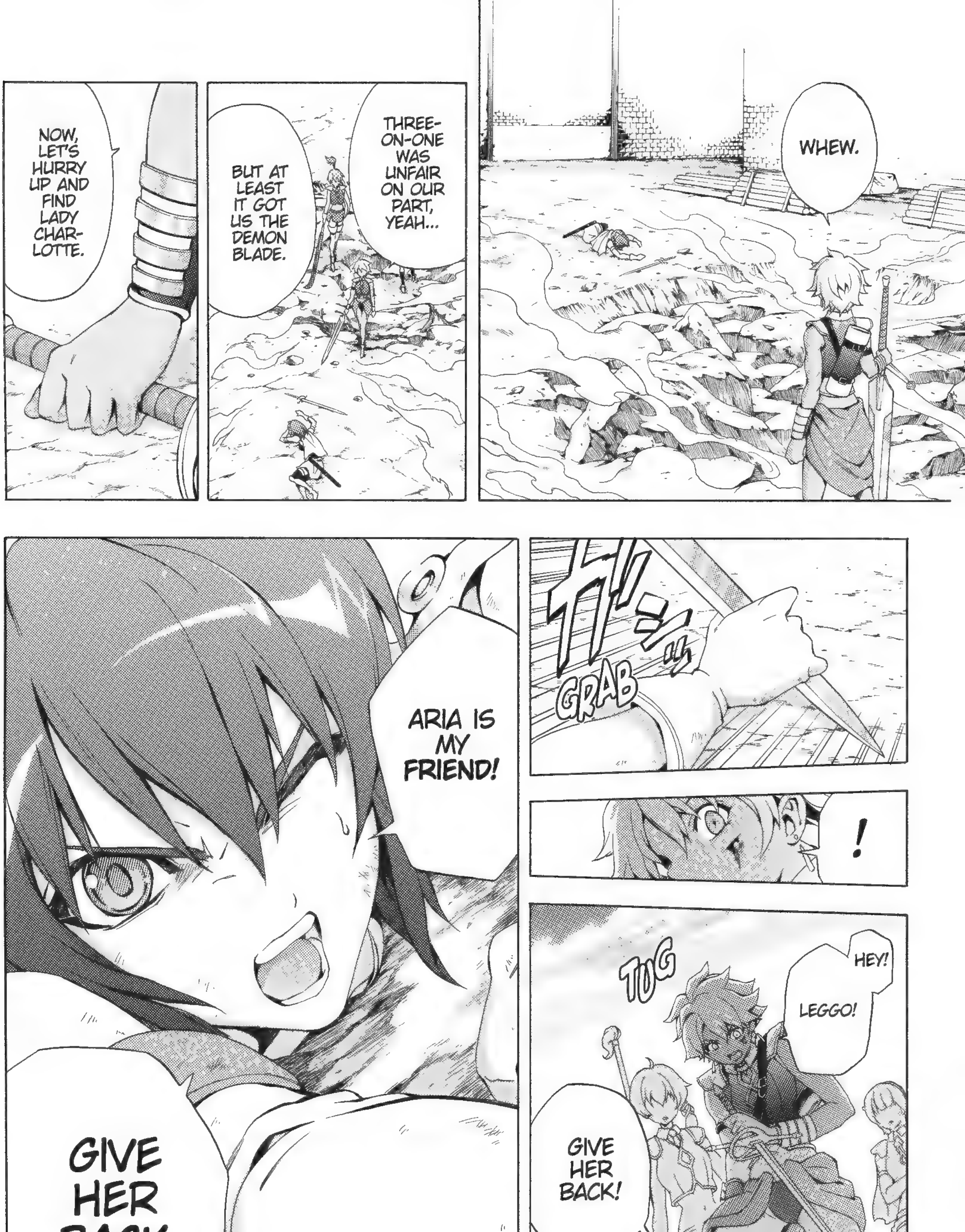

BUT I WON'T LOSE THAT EASILY!
ARIA!
WIND SHIELD!
NOW!!

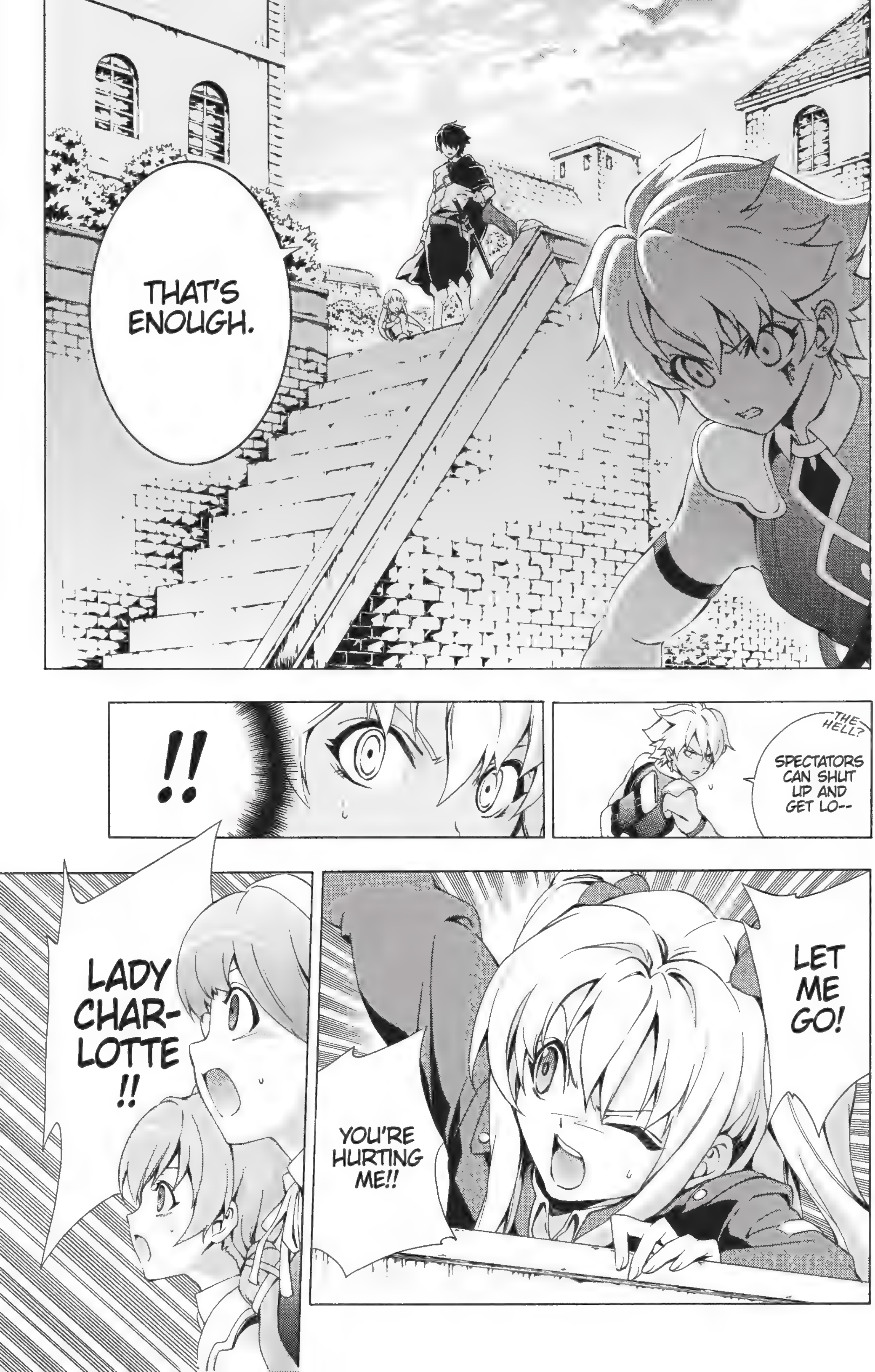

SHWOOM

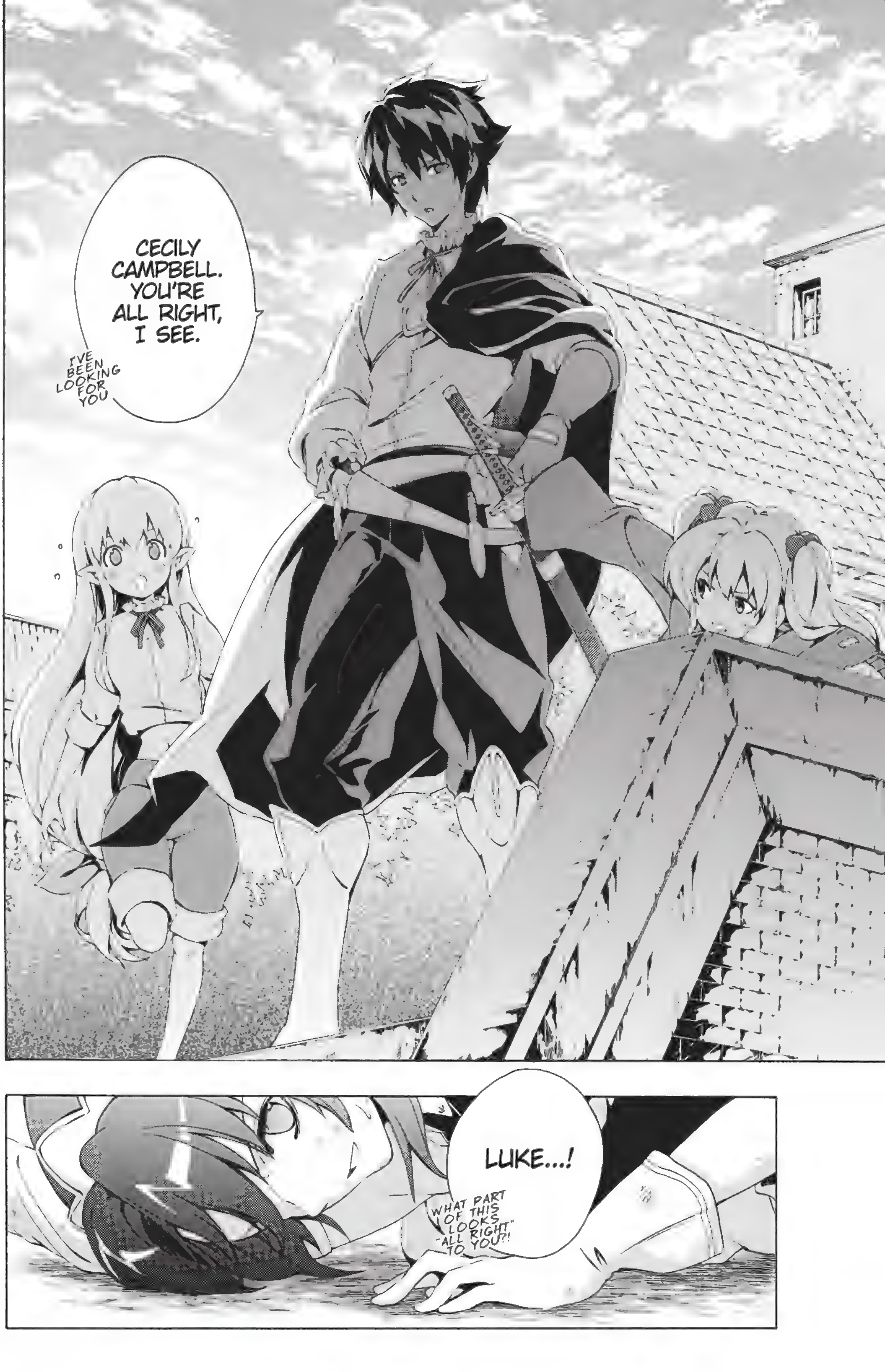

FWISH
ドザッ
LICK
MY NAME IS PENELOPE.
AND THIS IS MY BALLOCK KNIFE!
THE DEMON BLADE-KILLING DEMON BLADE!
ZWOOSH


SWOOOOSH
?!
FP
SWOOOO


MY WIND... VANISHED ?!
HAAH!!
WHOOM
THUD


WHEW.
THREE-ON-ONE WAS UNFAIR ON OUR PART, YEAH...
BUT AT LEAST IT GOT US THE DEMON BLADE.
NOW, LET'S HURRY UP AND FIND LADY CHARLOTTE.
GRAB
!
TUG
HEY!
LEGGO!
GIVE HER BACK!
ARIA IS MY FRIEND!
GIVE HER BACK TO ME!!


THAT'S ENOUGH.
THE HELL?
SPECTATORS CAN SHUT UP AND GET LO--
!!
LET ME GO!
YOU'RE HURTING ME!!
LADY CHARLOTTE!!


CECILY CAMPBELL. YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, I SEE.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU
LUKE...!
WHAT PART OF THIS LOOKS "ALL RIGHT" TO YOU?!

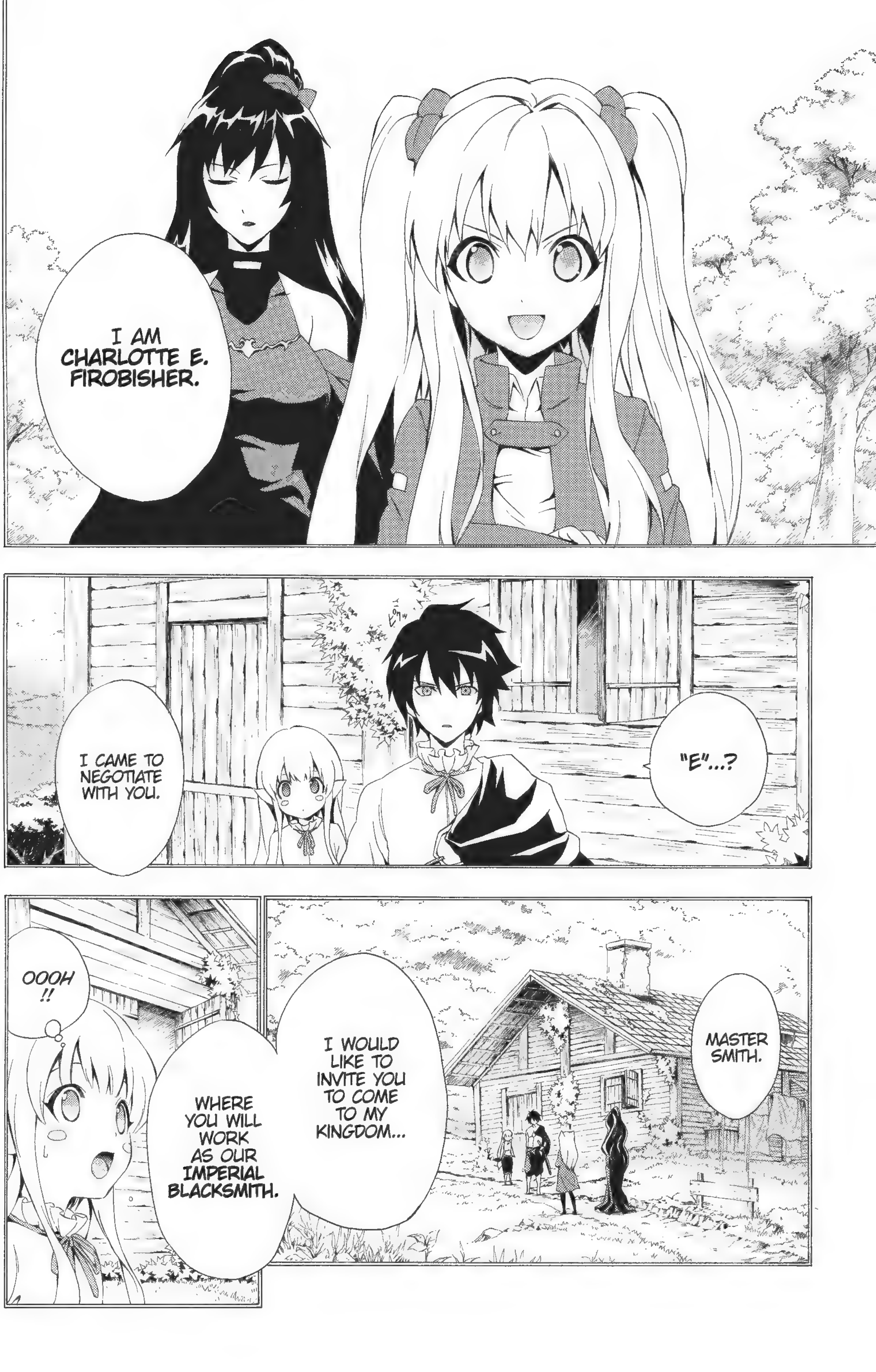
The Sacred Blacksmith

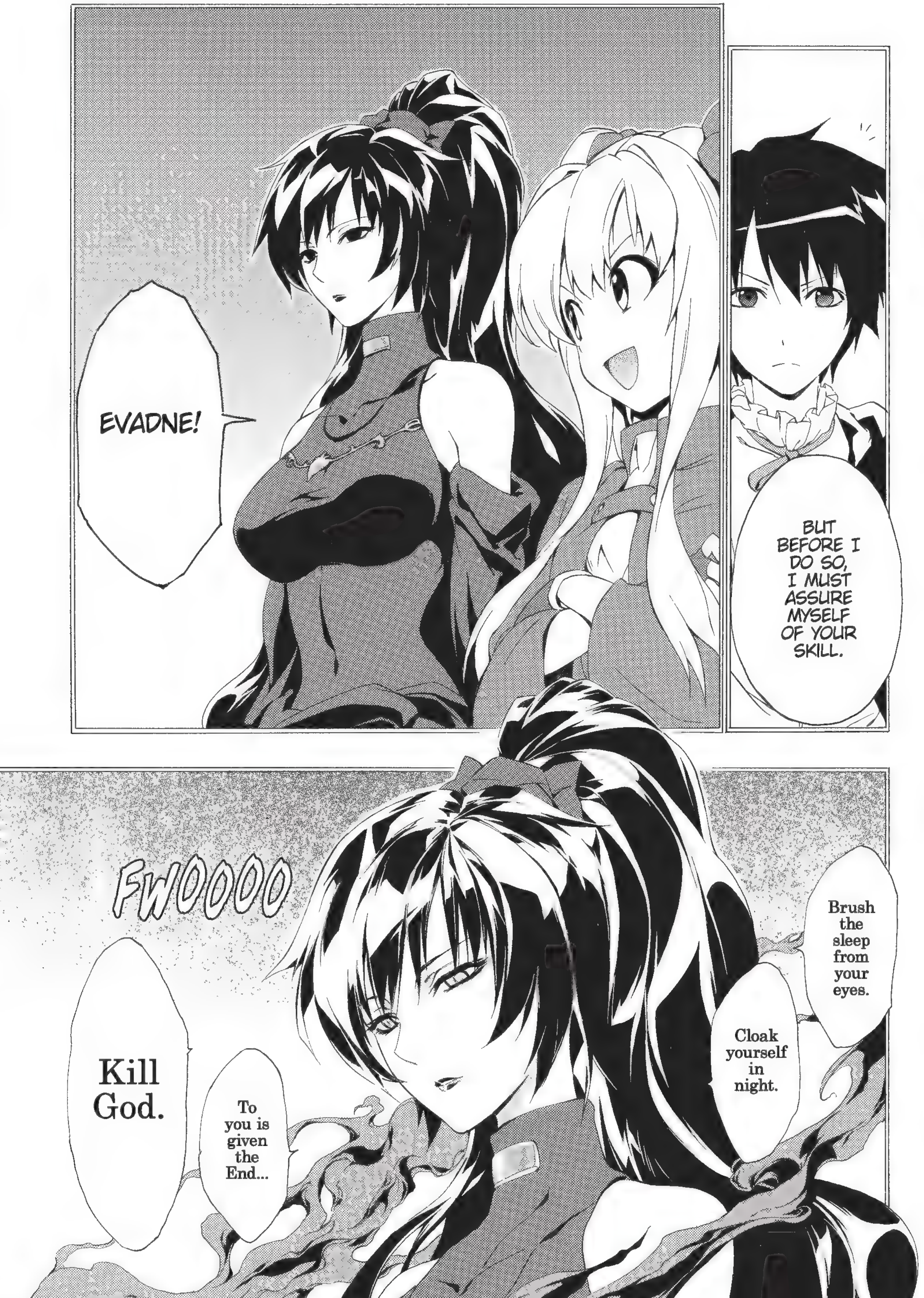
聖剣の刀鍛冶（ブラックスミス）

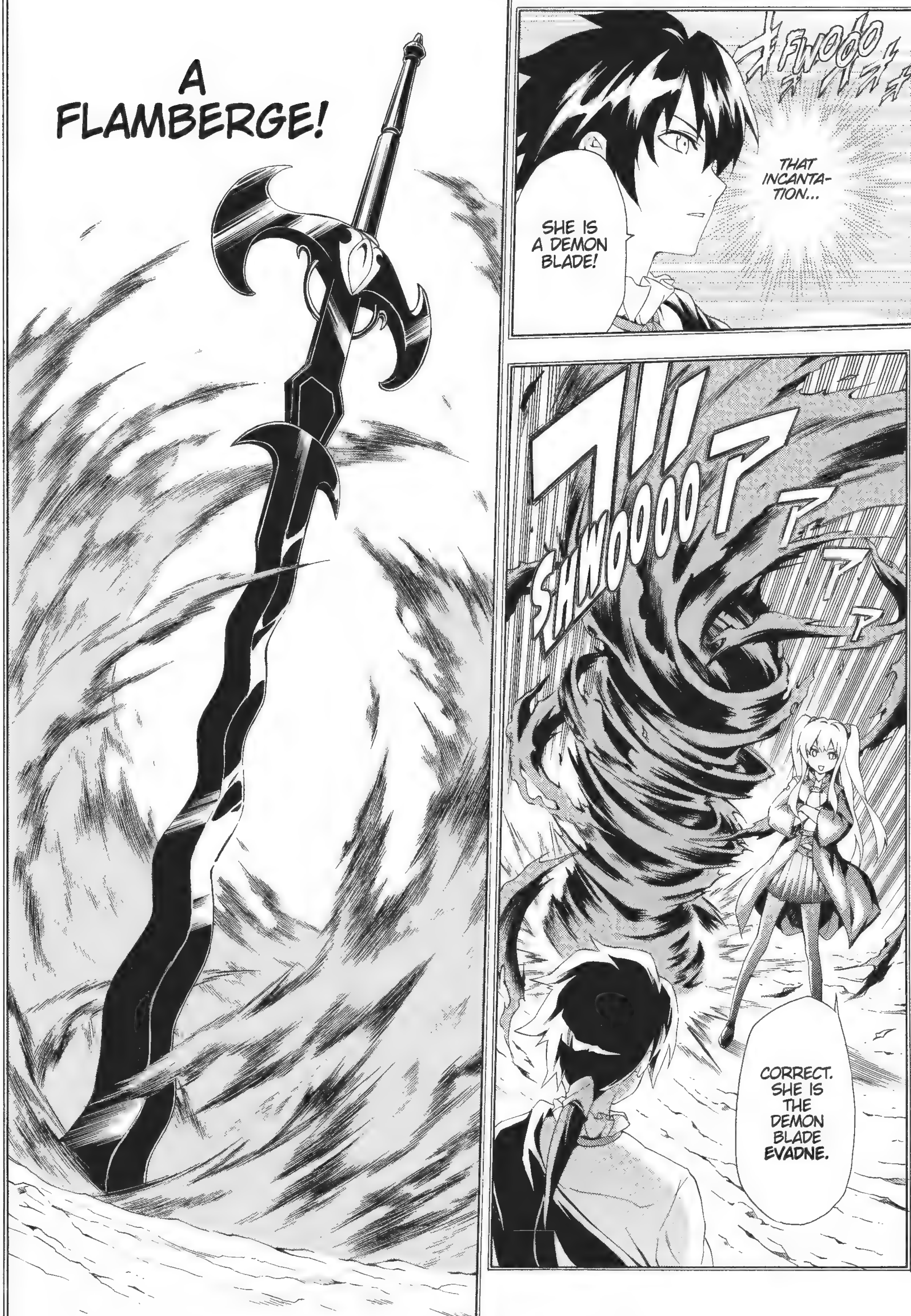
The Sacred Blacksmith

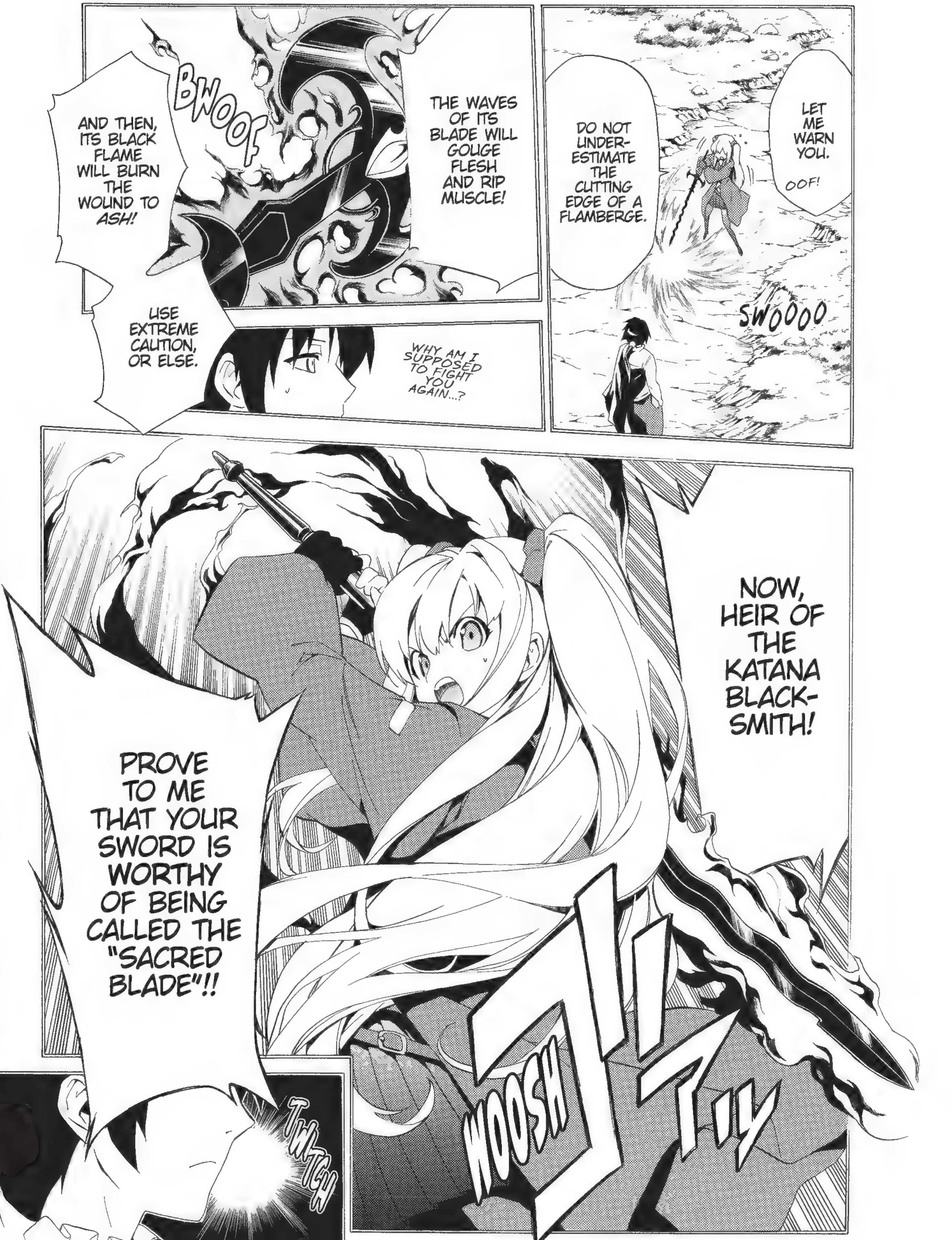
聖剣の刀鍛冶（ブラックスミス）

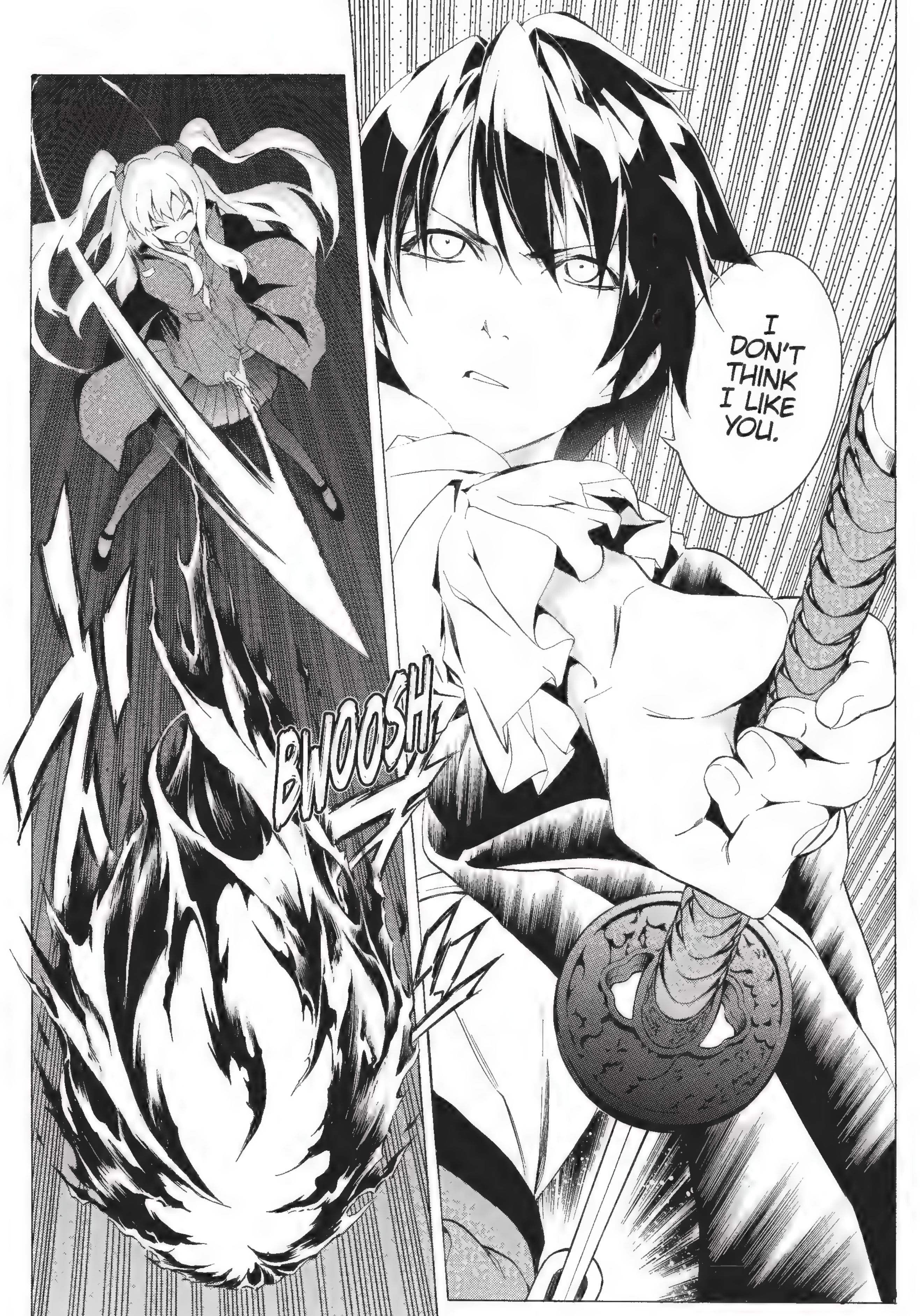
Chapter 9 Princess (Part 2)

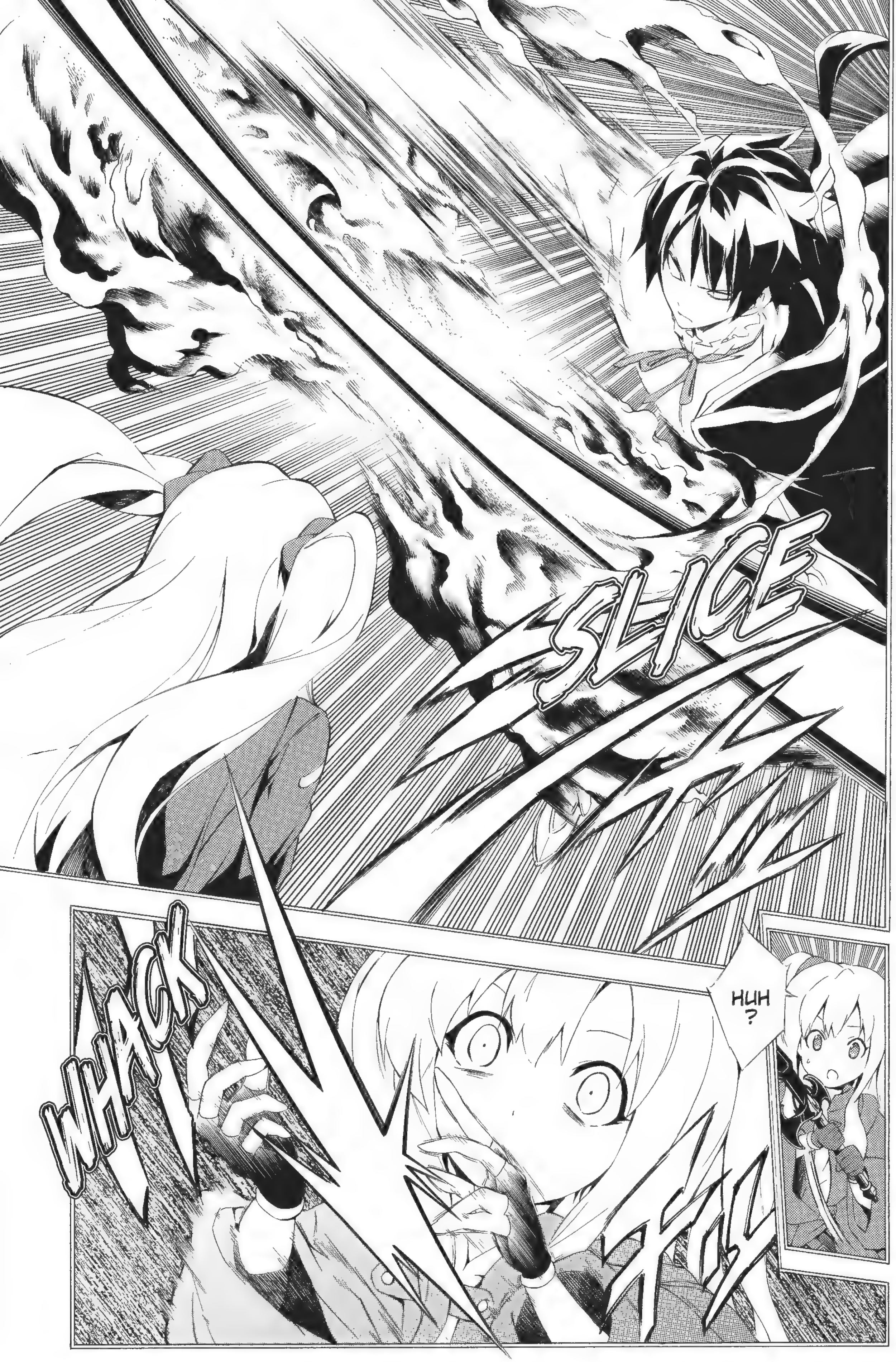

I AM CHARLOTTE E. FIROBISHER.
"E"...?
I CAME TO NEGOTIATE WITH YOU.
MASTER SMITH.
I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO COME TO MY KINGDOM...
WHERE YOU WILL WORK AS OUR IMPERIAL BLACKSMITH.
OOOH!!

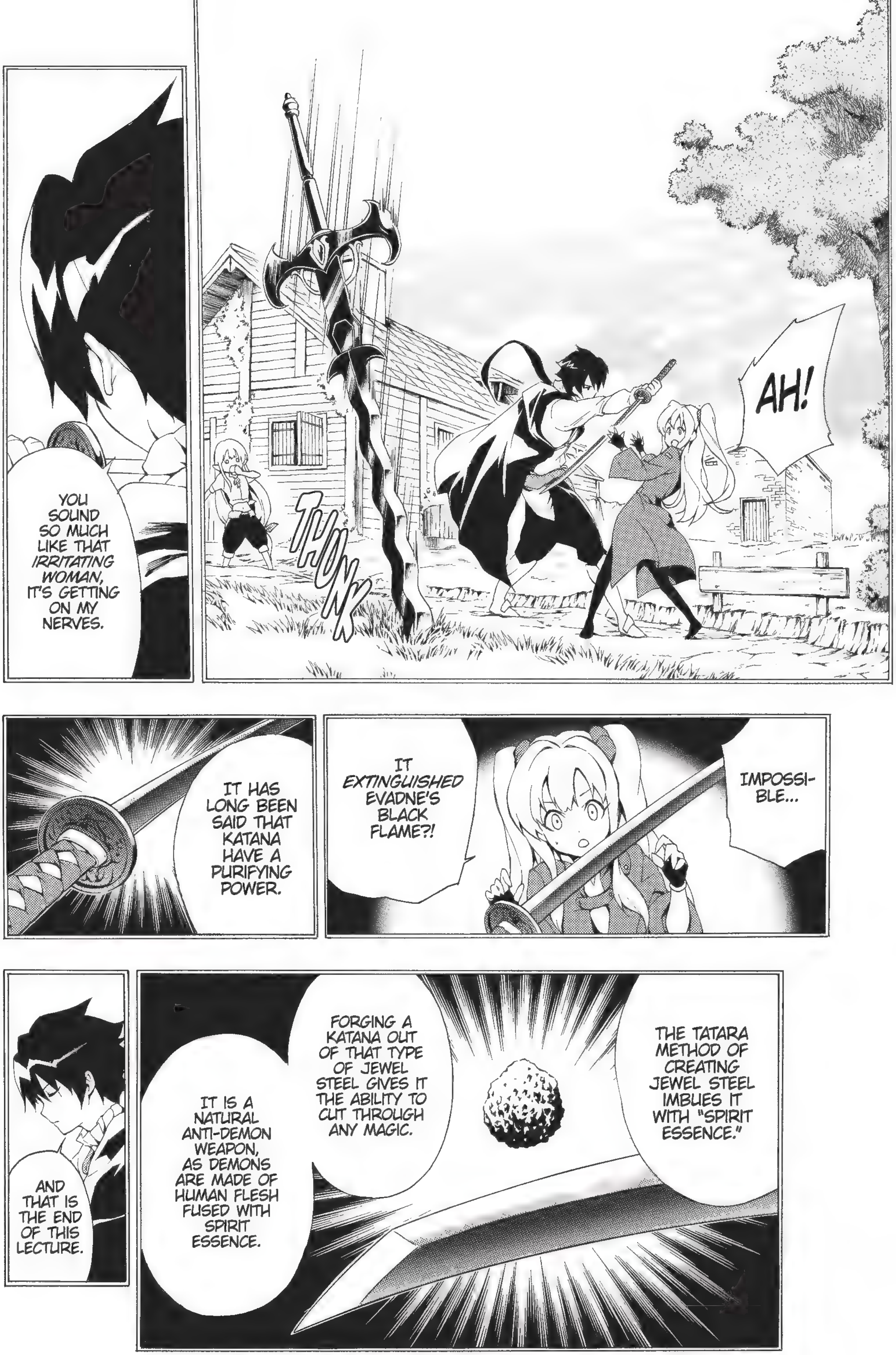

BUT BEFORE I DO SO, I MUST ASSURE MYSELF OF YOUR SKILL.
EVADNE!
Brush the sleep from your eyes.
Cloak yourself in night.
FWOOOO
To you is given the End...
Kill God.

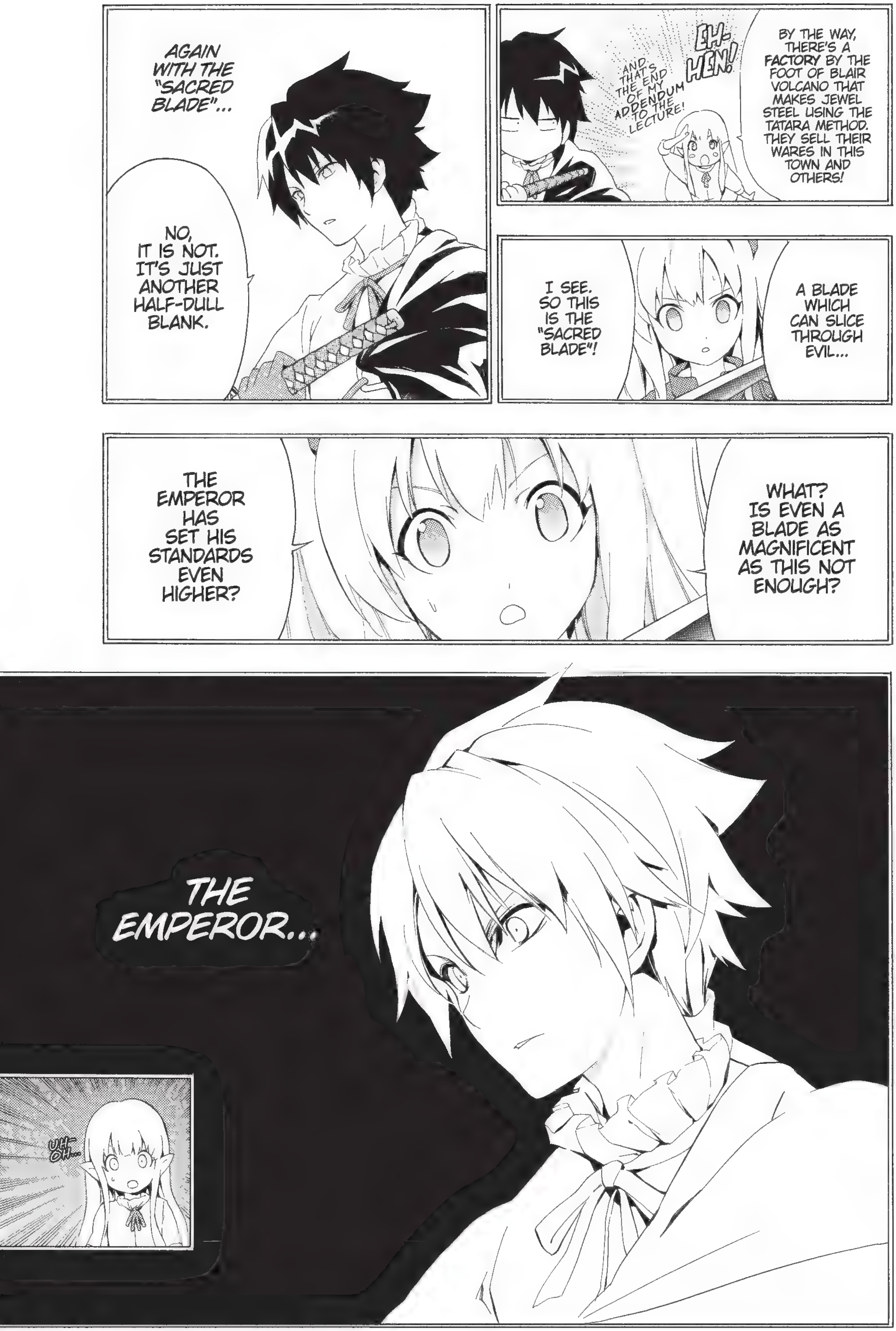

FWOOO
THAT INCANTATION...
SHE IS A DEMON BLADE!
SHWOOOOT
CORRECT. SHE IS THE DEMON BLADE EVADNE.
A FLAMBERGE!

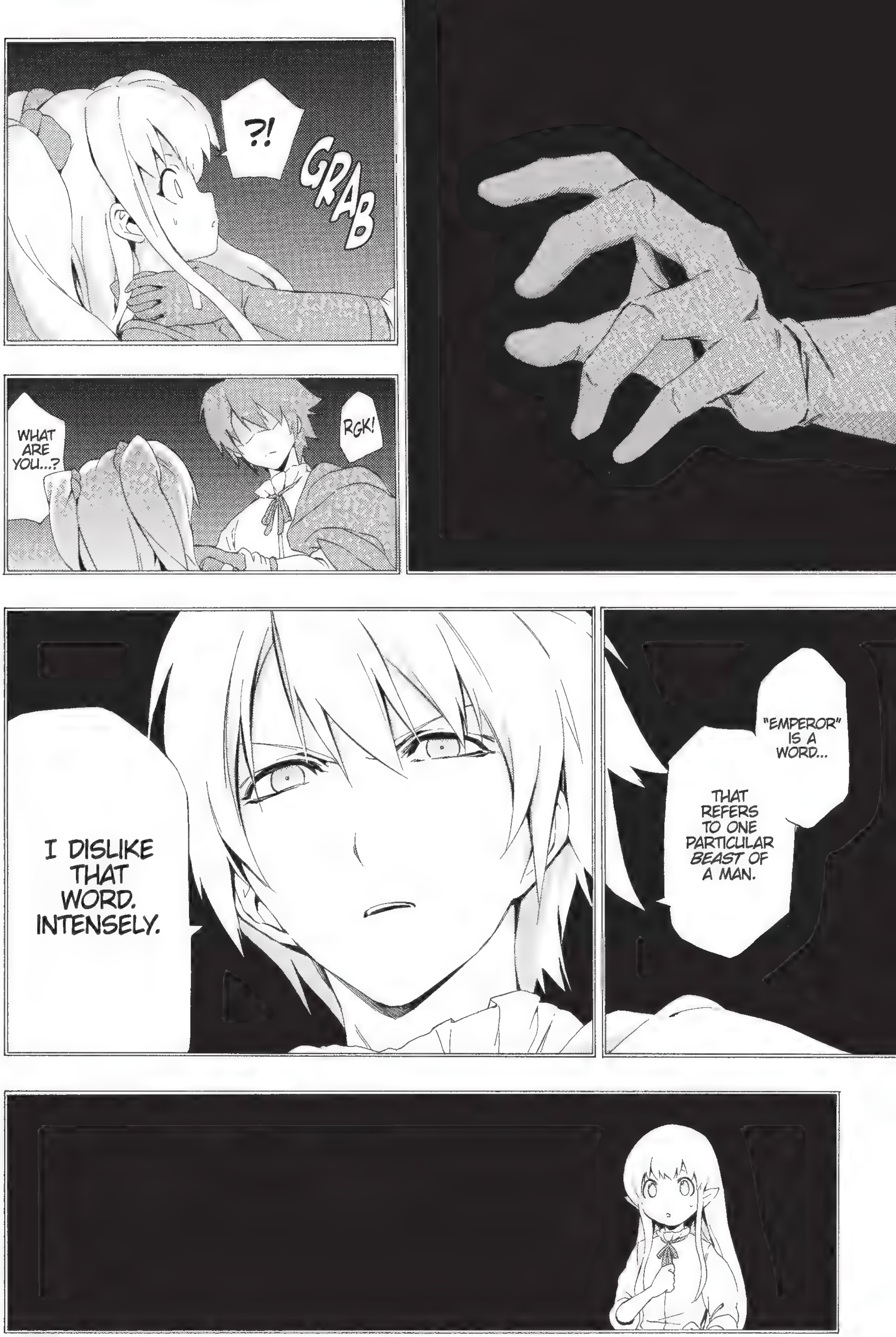

LET ME WARN YOU.
OOF!
DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE THE CUTTING EDGE OF A FLAMBERGE.
SWOOOO
THE WAVES OF ITS BLADE WILL GOUGE FLESH AND RIP MUSCLE!
BWOOF
AND THEN, ITS BLACK FLAME WILL BURN THE WOUND TO ASH!
WHY AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT YOU AGAIN...?
USE EXTREME CAUTION, OR ELSE.
NOW, HEIR OF THE KATANA BLACK-SMITH!
PROVE TO ME THAT YOUR SWORD IS WORTHY OF BEING CALLED THE "SACRED BLADE"!!
WOOSH
TWITCH

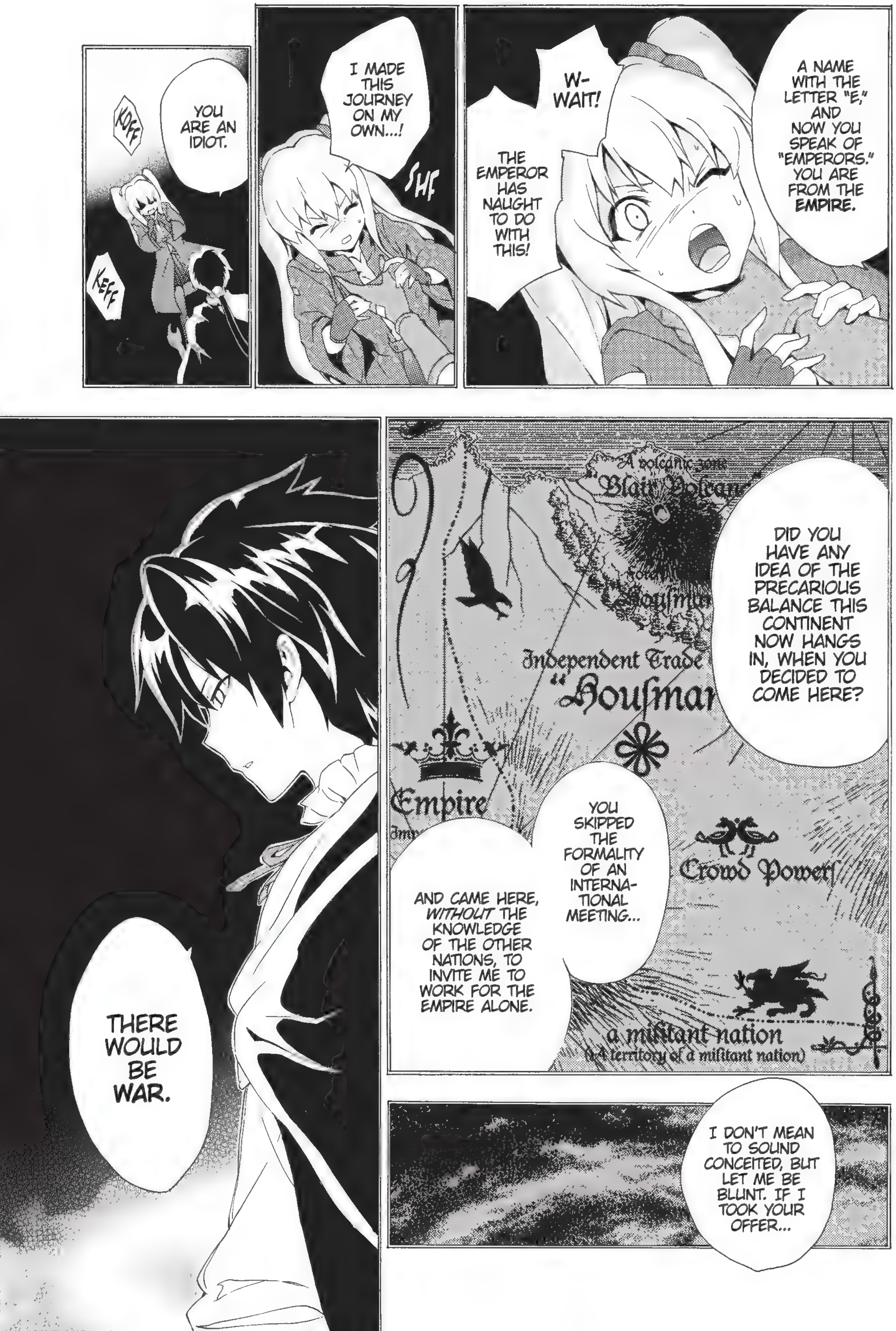

I DON'T THINK I LIKE YOU.
BWOOSH

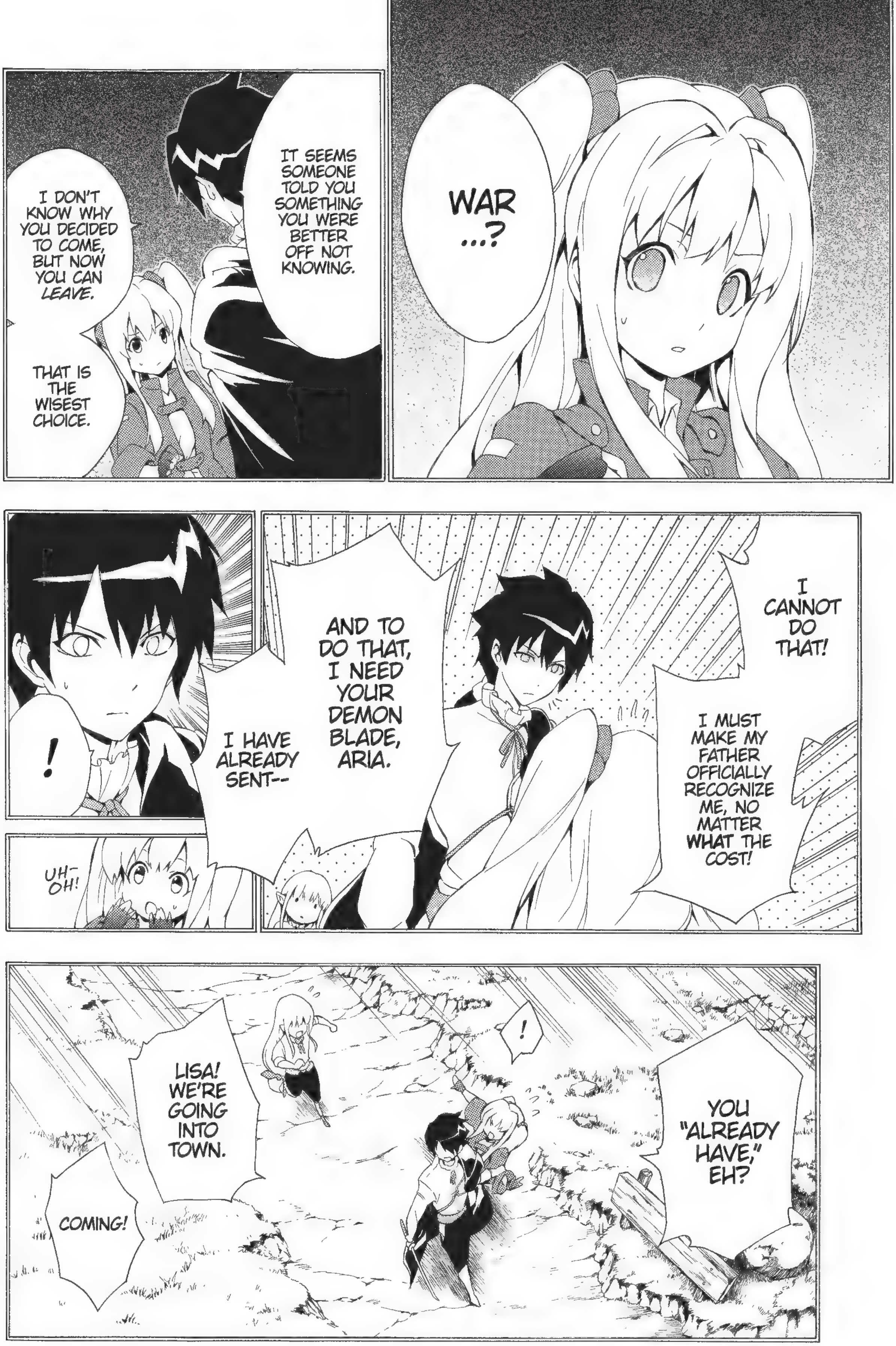

SLICE
HUH?
WHACK

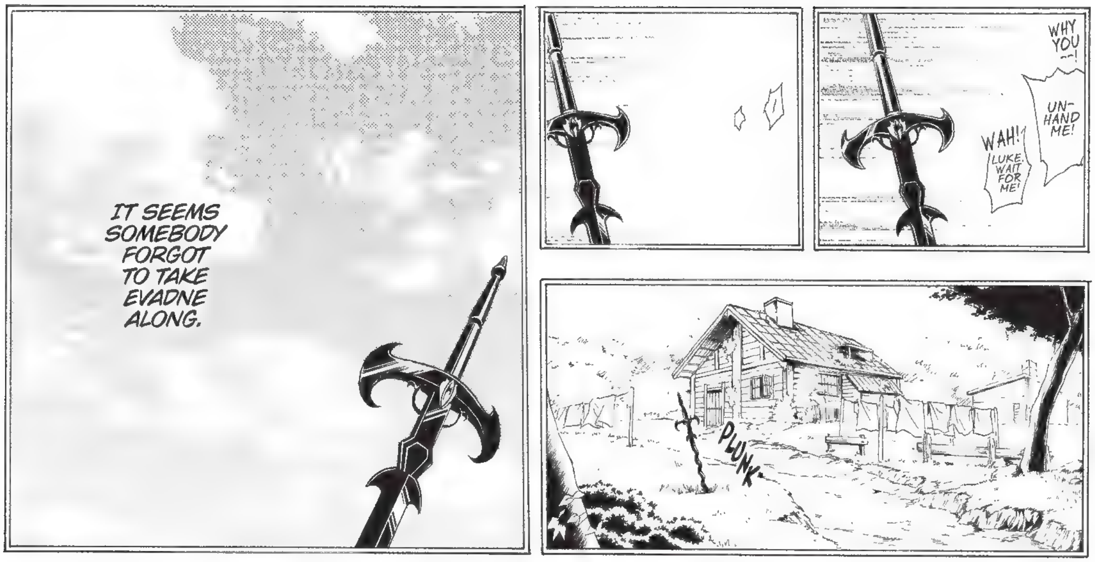

AH!
THUNK
YOU SOUND SO MUCH LIKE THAT *IRRITATING WOMAN*, IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES.
IMPOSSIBLE...
IT *EXTINGUISHED* EVADNE'S BLACK FLAME?!
IT HAS LONG BEEN SAID THAT KATANA HAVE A PURIFYING POWER.
THE TATARA METHOD OF CREATING JEWEL STEEL IMBUES IT WITH "SPIRIT ESSENCE."
FORGING A KATANA OUT OF THAT TYPE OF JEWEL STEEL GIVES IT THE ABILITY TO CUT THROUGH ANY MAGIC.
IT IS A NATURAL ANTI-DEMON WEAPON, AS DEMONS ARE MADE OF HUMAN FLESH FUSED WITH SPIRIT ESSENCE.
AND THAT IS THE END OF THIS LECTURE.


BY THE WAY, THERE'S A FACTORY BY THE FOOT OF BLAIR VOLCANO THAT MAKES JEWEL STEEL USING THE TATARA METHOD. THEY SELL THEIR WARES IN THIS TOWN AND OTHERS!
EH-HEN!
AND THAT'S THE END OF MY ADDENDUM TO THE LECTURE!
A BLADE WHICH CAN SLICE THROUGH EVIL...
I SEE. SO THIS IS THE "SACRED BLADE"!
AGAIN WITH THE "SACRED BLADE"...
NO, IT IS NOT. IT'S JUST ANOTHER HALF-DULL BLANK.
WHAT? IS EVEN A BLADE AS MAGNIFICENT AS THIS NOT ENOUGH?
THE EMPEROR HAS SET HIS STANDARDS EVEN HIGHER?
THE EMPEROR...
UH-OH...

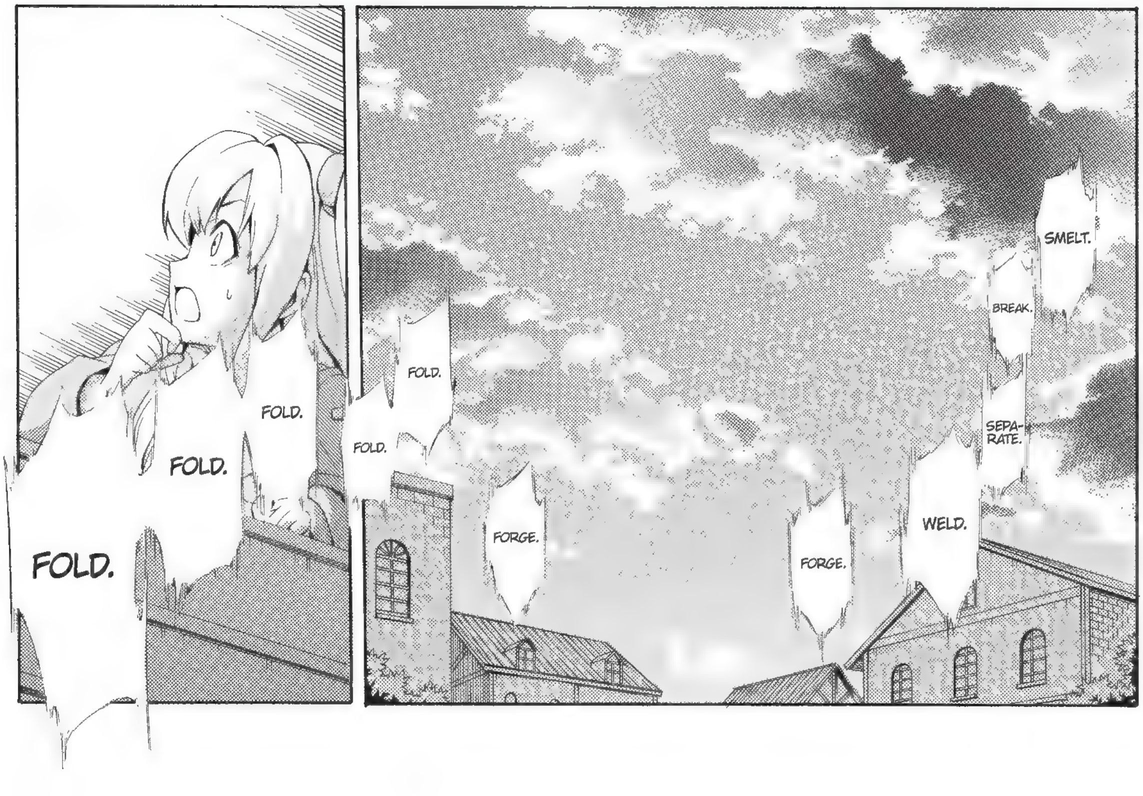

?!
GRAB
RGK!
WHAT ARE YOU...?
"EMPEROR" IS A WORD...
THAT REFERS TO ONE PARTICULAR *BEAST* OF A MAN.
I DISLIKE THAT WORD. INTENSELY.

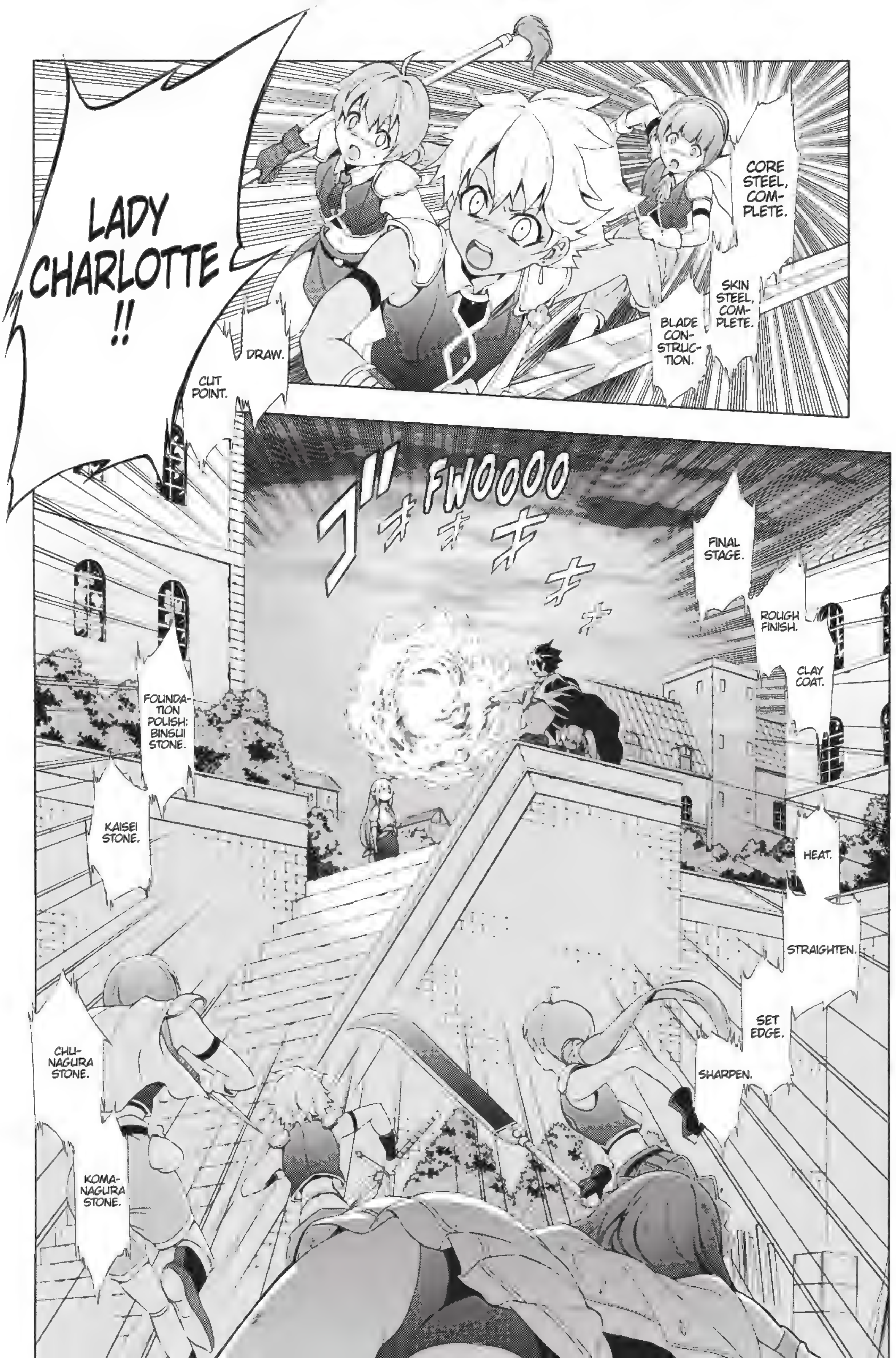

A NAME WITH THE LETTER "E," AND NOW YOU SPEAK OF "EMPERORS." YOU ARE FROM THE **EMPIRE.**
W-WAIT!
THE EMPEROR HAS NAUGHT TO DO WITH THIS!
I MADE THIS JOURNEY ON MY OWN...!
SHF
YOU ARE AN IDIOT.
KOFF
KEFF
A volcanic zone
"Blair Volcan
"Houſman
Independent Trade
"Houſman
Empire
Crowd Powerſ
a militant nation
(A territory of a militant nation)
DID YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE PRECARIOUS BALANCE THIS CONTINENT NOW HANGS IN, WHEN YOU DECIDED TO COME HERE?
YOU SKIPPED THE FORMALITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING...
AND CAME HERE, *WITHOUT* THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OTHER NATIONS, TO INVITE ME TO WORK FOR THE EMPIRE ALONE.
I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND CONCEITED, BUT LET ME BE BLUNT. IF I TOOK YOUR OFFER...
THERE WOULD BE WAR.

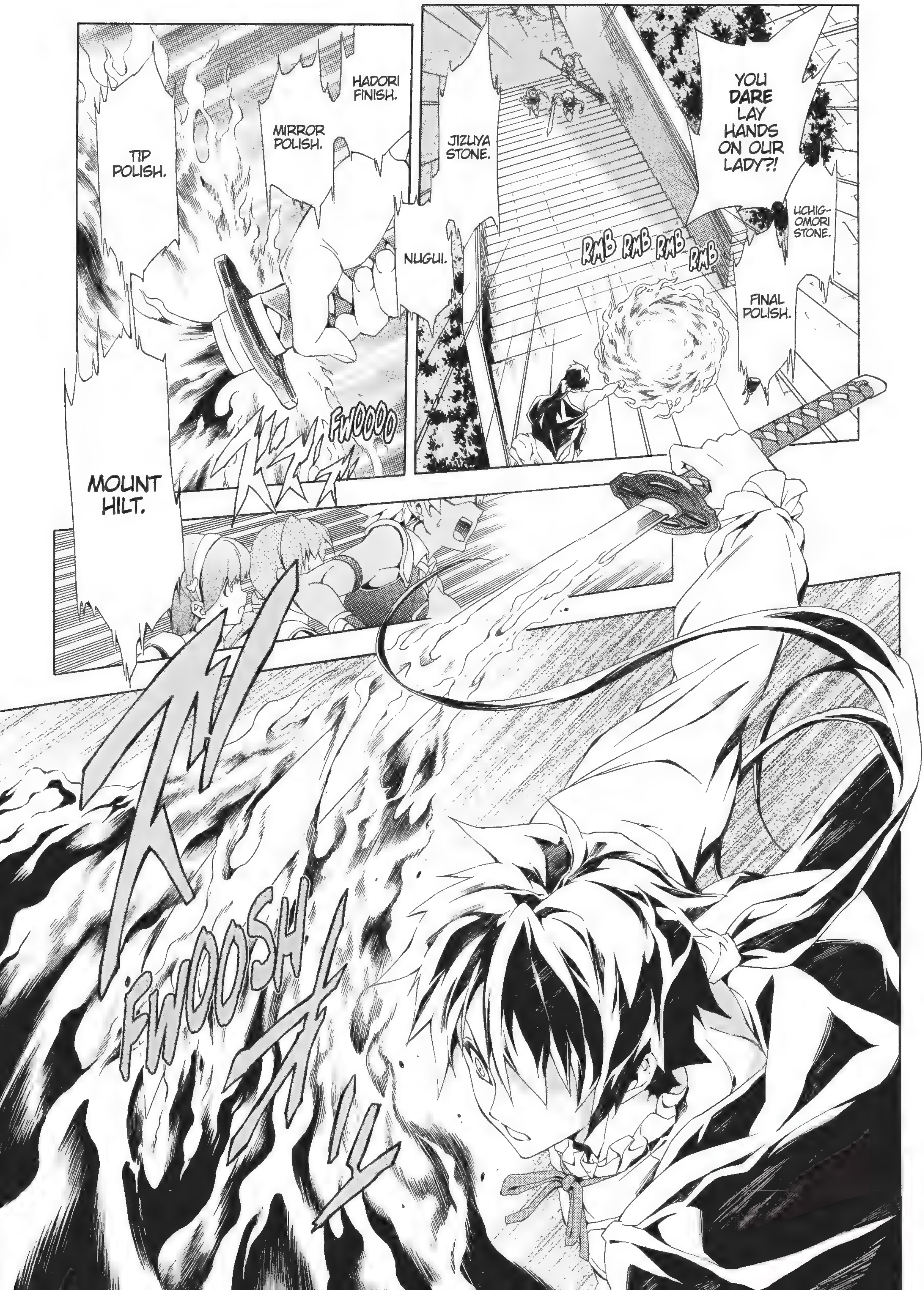

WAR ...?
IT SEEMS SOMEONE TOLD YOU SOMETHING YOU WERE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DECIDED TO COME, BUT NOW YOU CAN *LEAVE*.
THAT IS THE WISEST CHOICE.
I CANNOT DO THAT!
I MUST MAKE MY FATHER OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE ME, NO MATTER **WHAT** THE COST!
AND TO DO THAT, I NEED YOUR DEMON BLADE, ARIA.
I HAVE ALREADY SENT--
!
UH-OH!
YOU "ALREADY HAVE," EH?
!
LISA! WE'RE GOING INTO TOWN.
COMING!


IT SEEMS SOMEBODY FORGOT TO TAKE EVADNE ALONG.
WHY YOU—!
UNHAND ME!
WAH!!
LUKE, WAIT FOR ME!
PLUNK

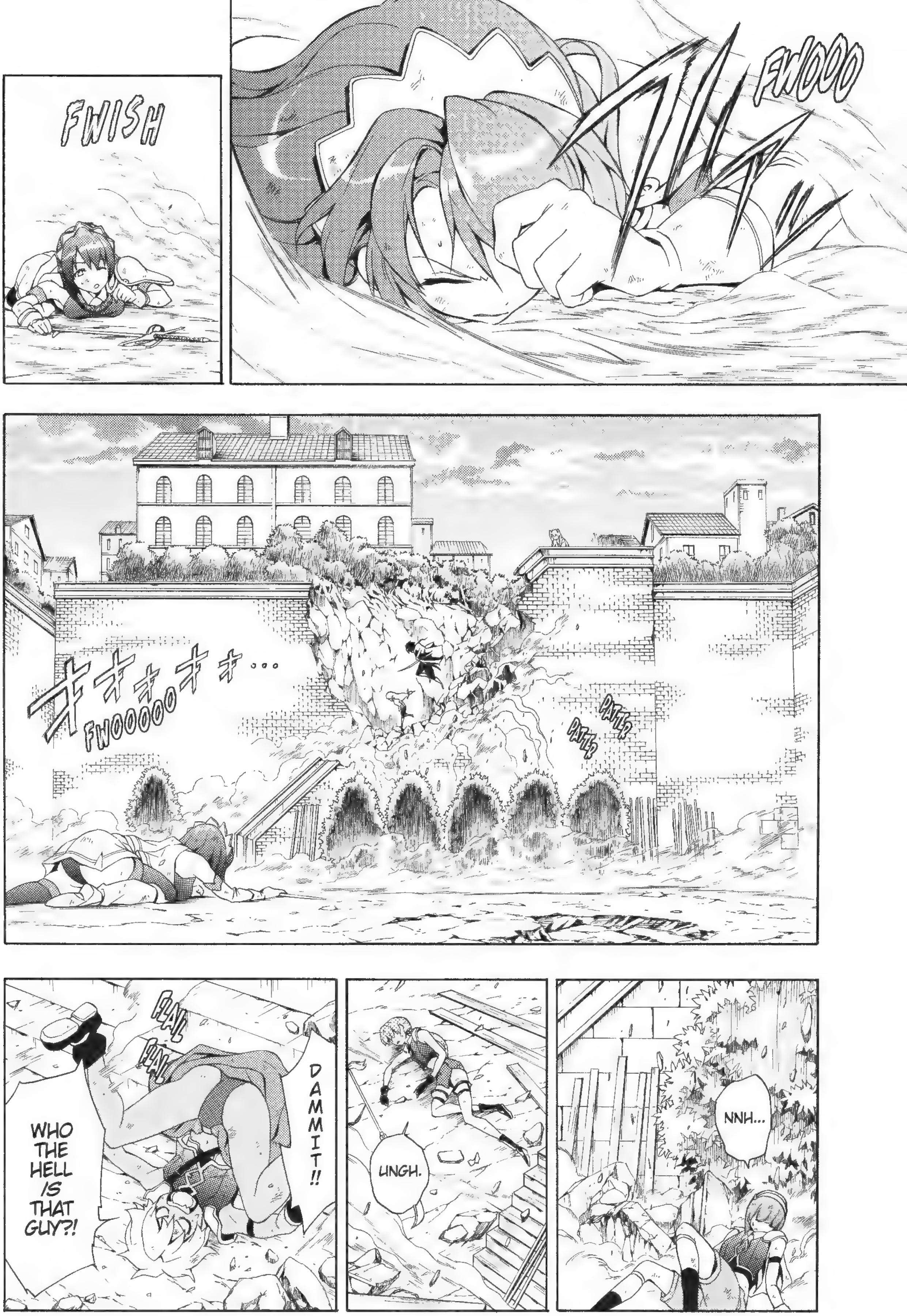
BEGIN FORGING.

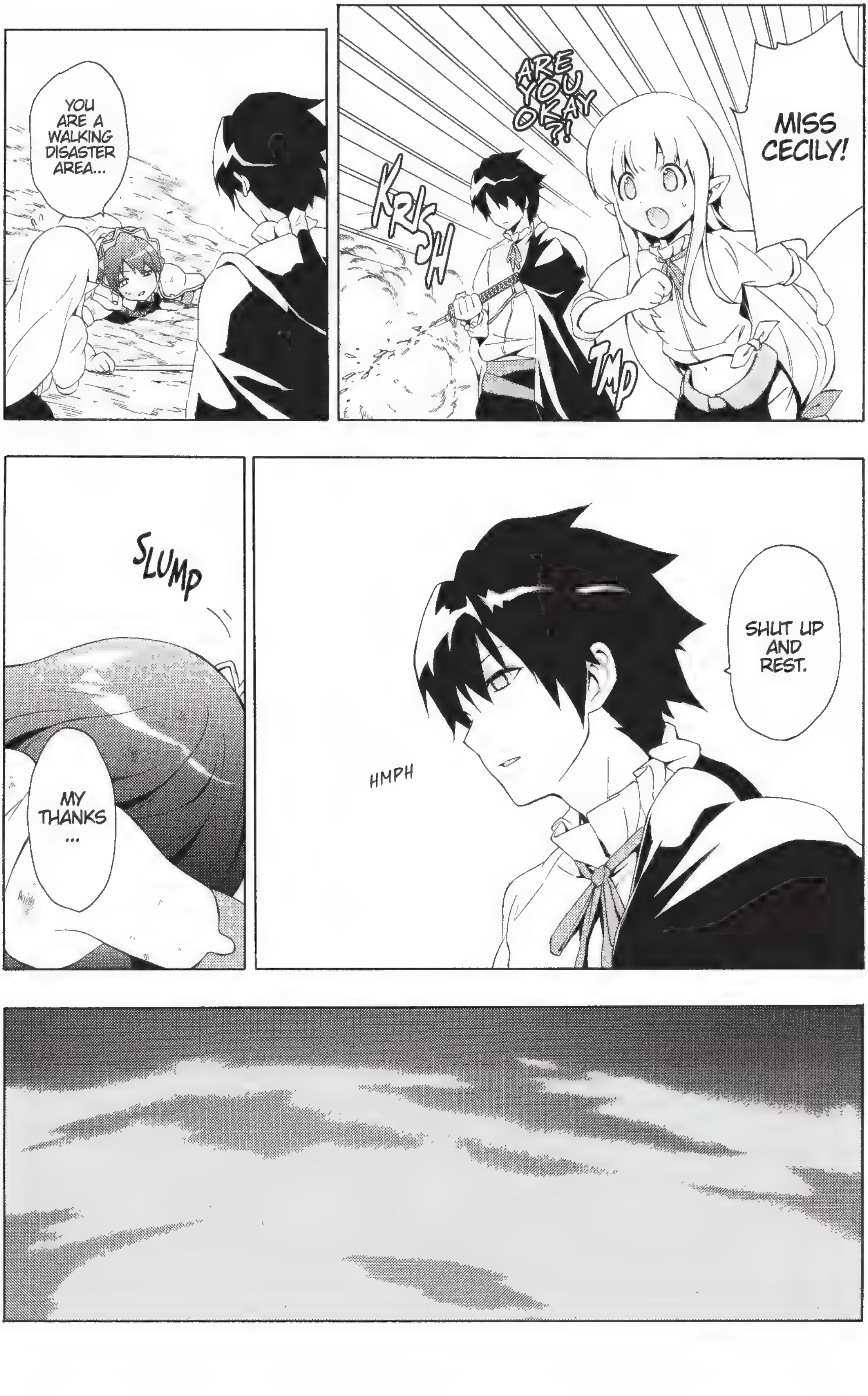

SMELT.
BREAK.
SEPARATE.
WELD.
FORGE.
FORGE.
FOLD.
FOLD.
FOLD.
FOLD.
FOLD.

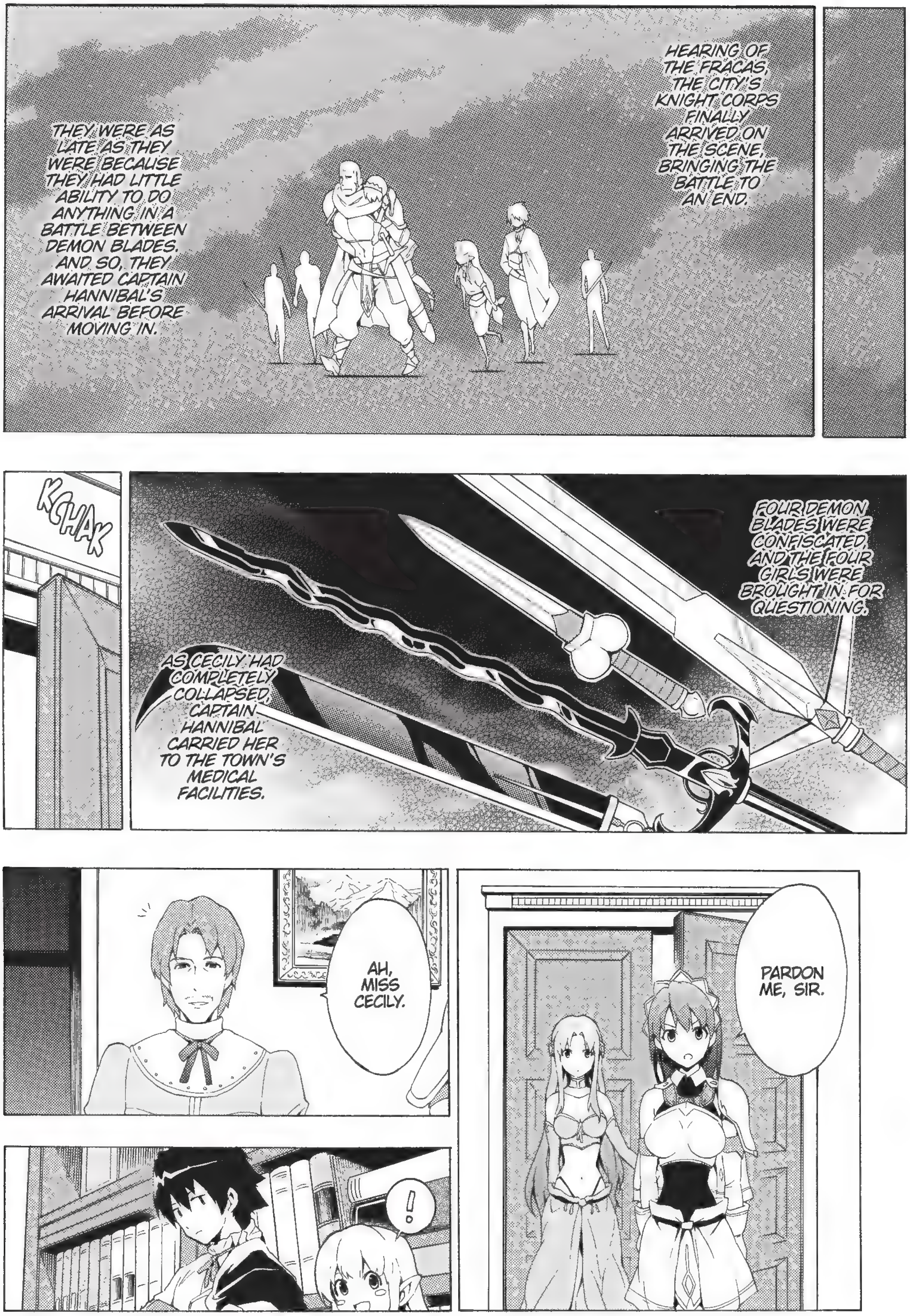

CORE STEEL, COMPLETE.
SKIN STEEL, COMPLETE.
BLADE CONSTRUCTION.
DRAW.
CUT POINT.
LADY CHARLOTTE!!
ゴォォォォォ FWOOOO
FINAL STAGE.
ROUGH FINISH.
CLAY COAT.
HEAT.
STRAIGHTEN.
SET EDGE.
SHARPEN.
FOUNDATION POLISH: BINSUI STONE.
KAISEI STONE.
CHUNAGURA STONE.
KOMANAGURA STONE.

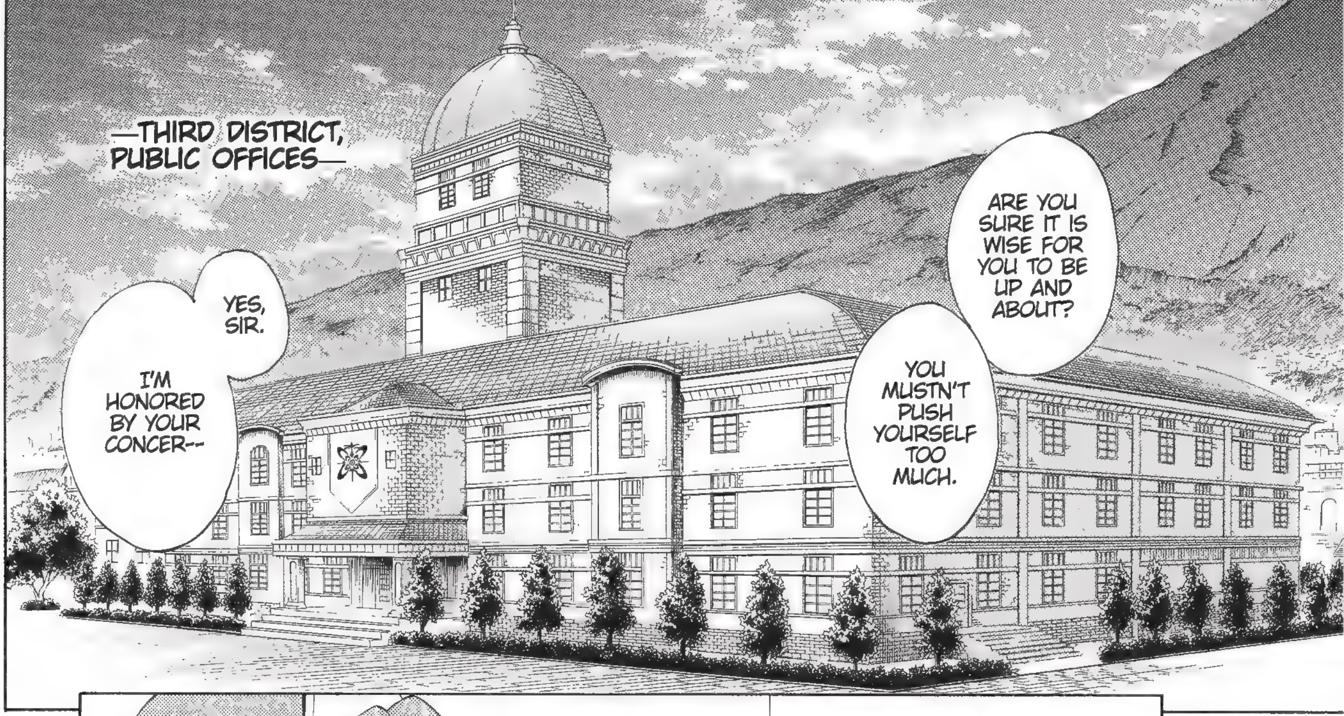

YOU DARE LAY HANDS ON OUR LADY?!
UCHIGO-OMORI STONE.
RMB RMB RMB RMB
FINAL POLISH.
JIZUYA STONE.
NUGUI.
HADORI FINISH.
MIRROR POLISH.
TIP POLISH.
FWOOOO
MOUNT HILT.
FWOOSH!!

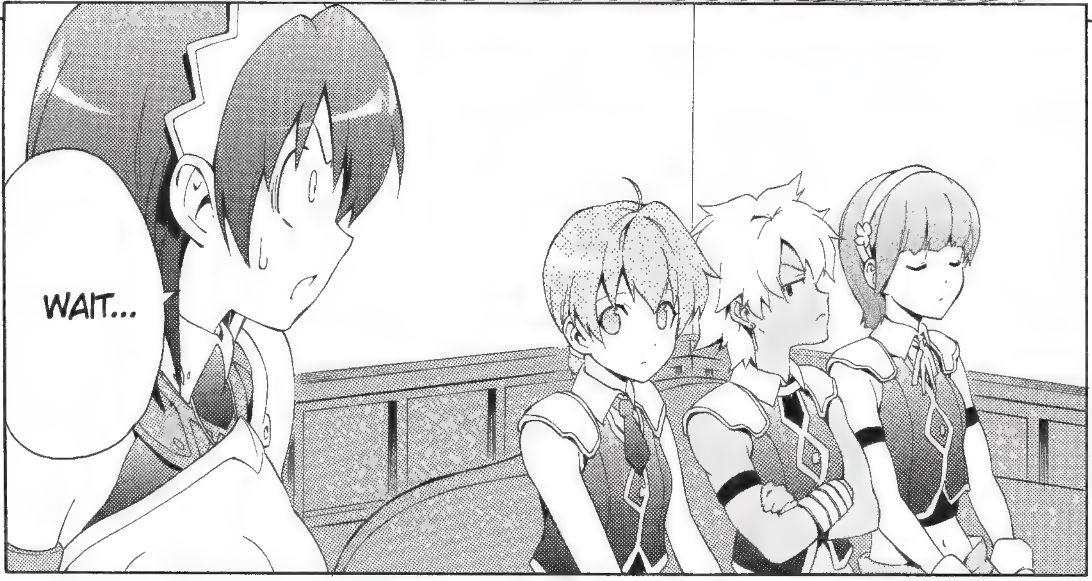
WHOOOOOOM

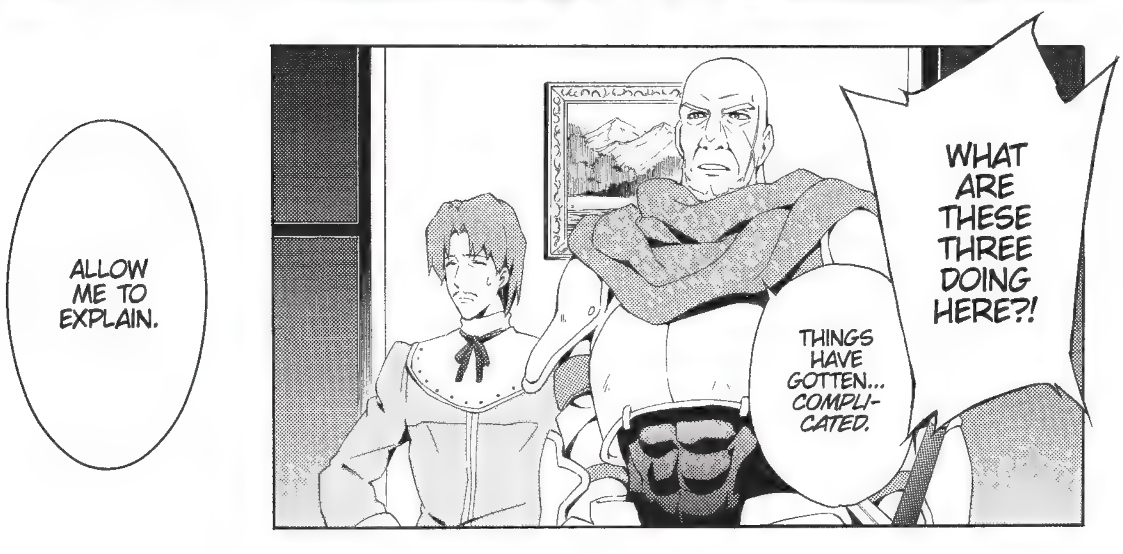

FWOOO
FWISH
オオォォオォ...
FWOOOOO
PATTER
PATTER
NNH...
UNGH.
DAMMIT!!
WHO THE HELL IS THAT GUY?!
FLAIL
FLAIL

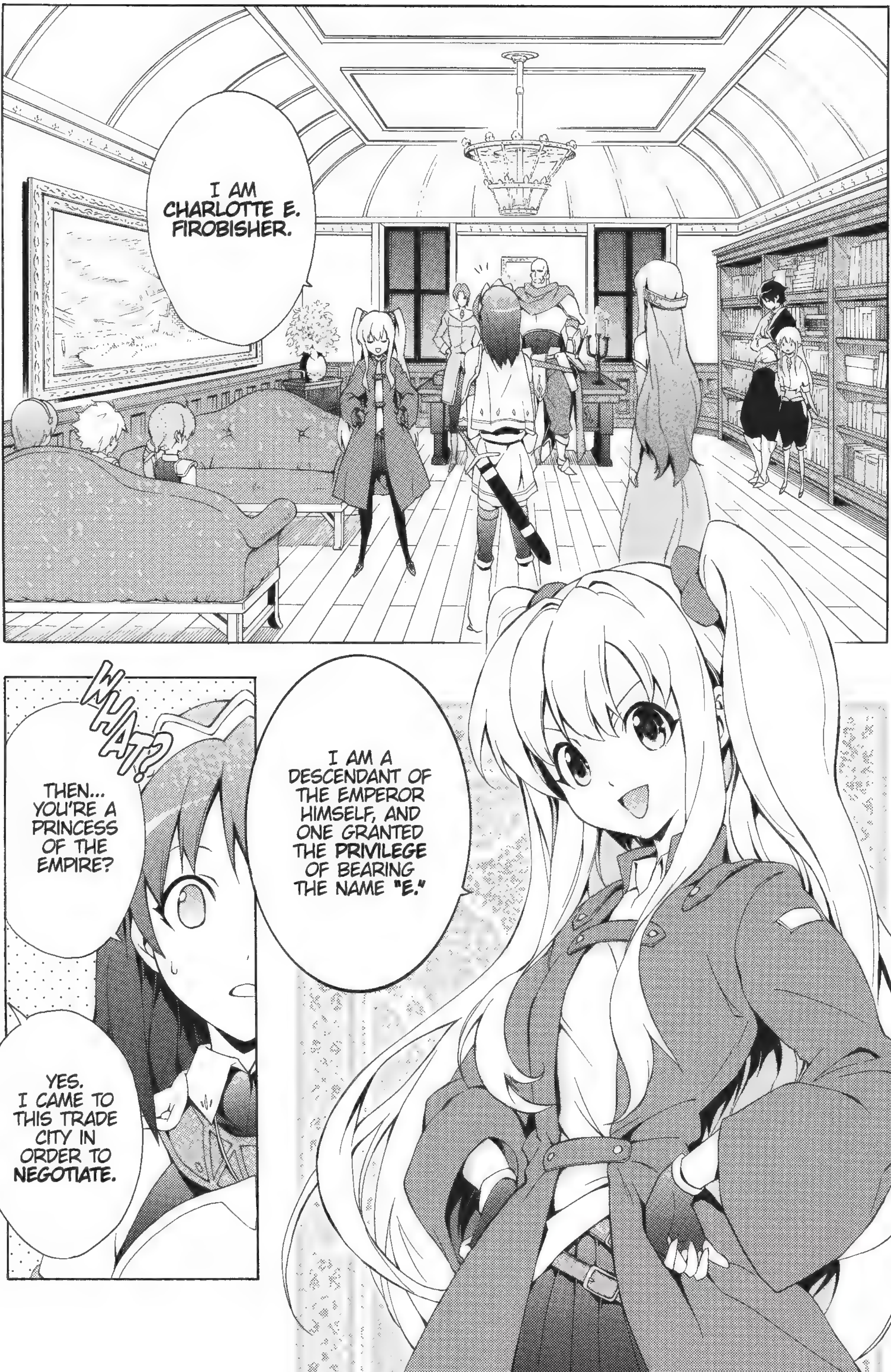

MISS CECILY!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
KRISH
TMP
YOU ARE A WALKING DISASTER AREA...
SHUT UP AND REST.
HMPH
SLUMP
MY THANKS...

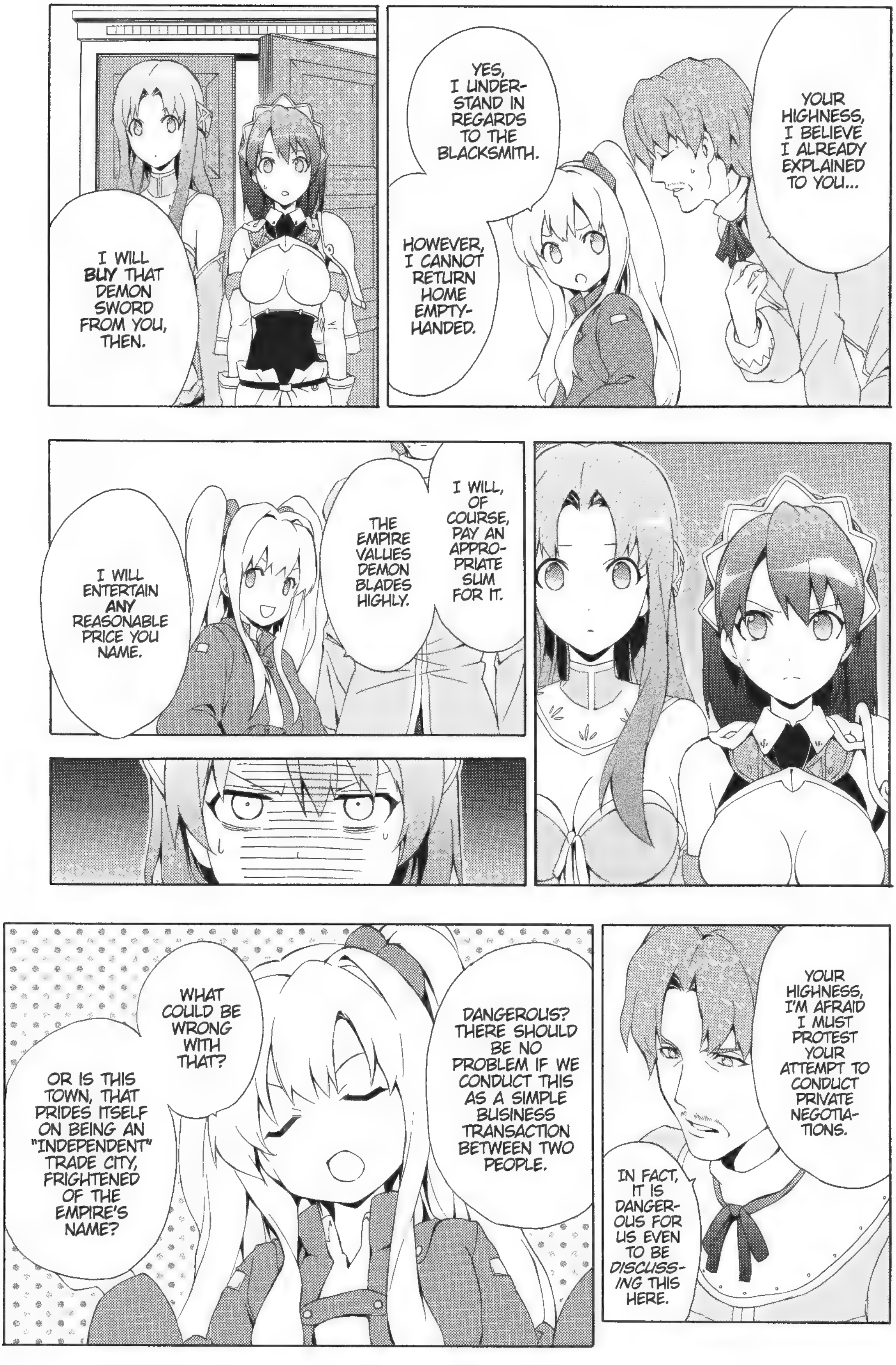

HEARING OF THE FRACAS, THE CITY'S KNIGHT CORPS FINALLY ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, BRINGING THE BATTLE TO AN END.
THEY WERE AS LATE AS THEY WERE BECAUSE THEY HAD LITTLE ABILITY TO DO ANYTHING IN A BATTLE BETWEEN DEMON BLADES. AND SO, THEY AWAITED CAPTAIN HANNIBAL'S ARRIVAL BEFORE MOVING IN.
FOUR DEMON BLADES WERE CONFISCATED, AND THE FOUR GIRLS WERE BROUGHT IN FOR QUESTIONING.
AS CECILY HAD COMPLETELY COLLAPSED, CAPTAIN HANNIBAL CARRIED HER TO THE TOWN'S MEDICAL FACILITIES.
KCHAK
PARDON ME, SIR.
AH, MISS CECILY.
!

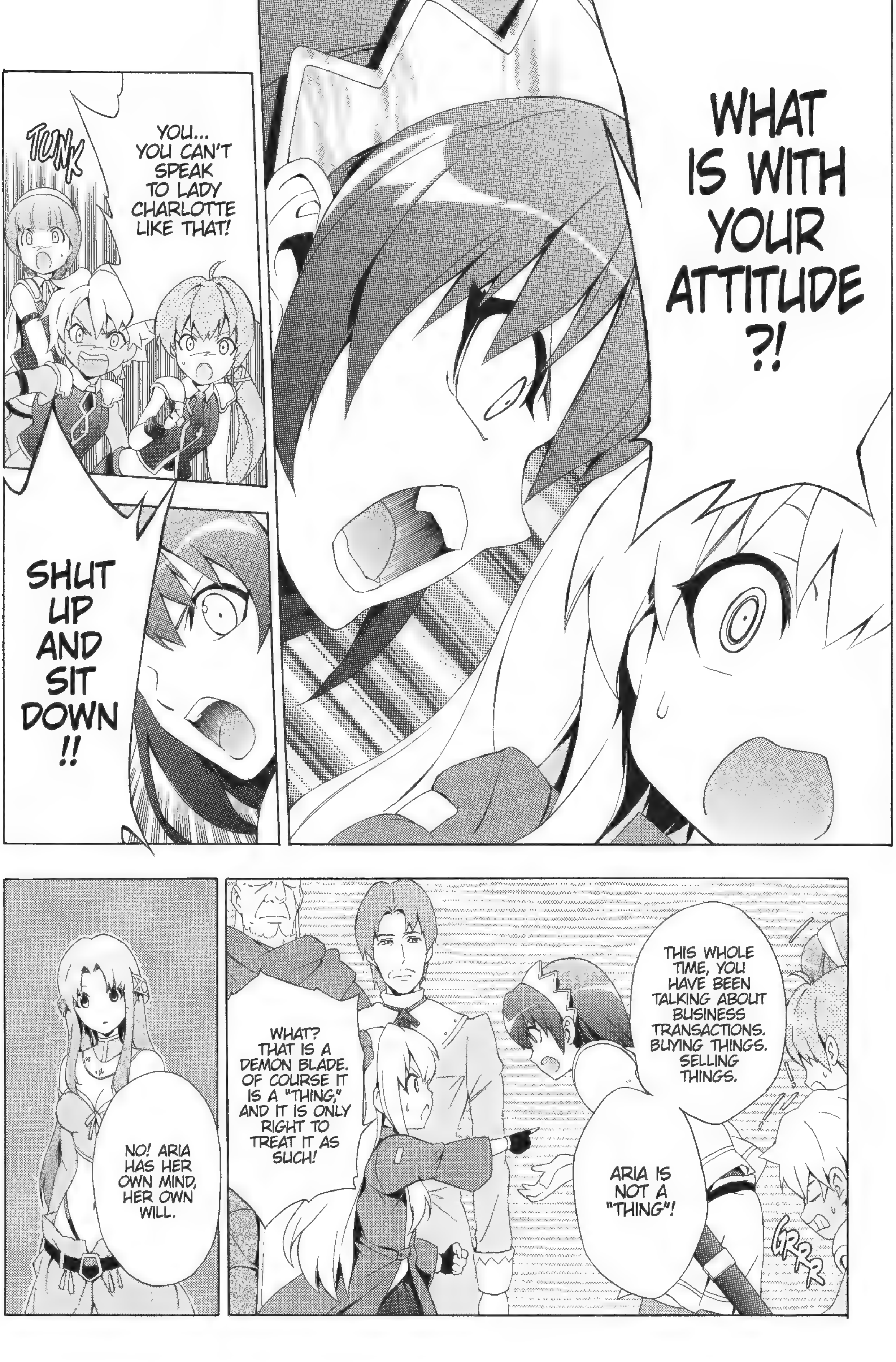

—THIRD DISTRICT, PUBLIC OFFICES—
ARE YOU SURE IT IS WISE FOR YOU TO BE UP AND ABOUT?
YOU MUSTN'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO MUCH.
YES, SIR.
I'M HONORED BY YOUR CONCER--

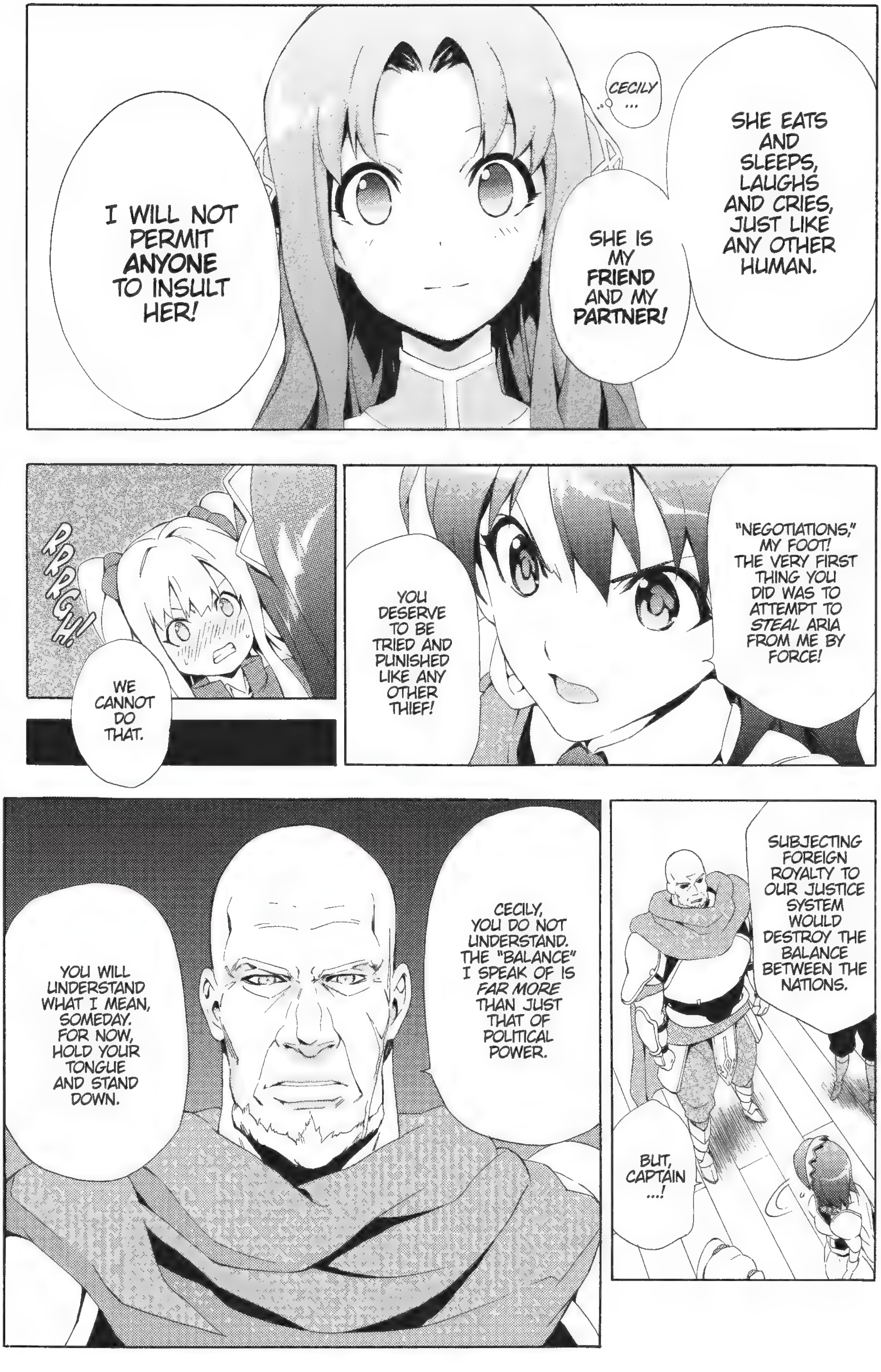

WAIT...

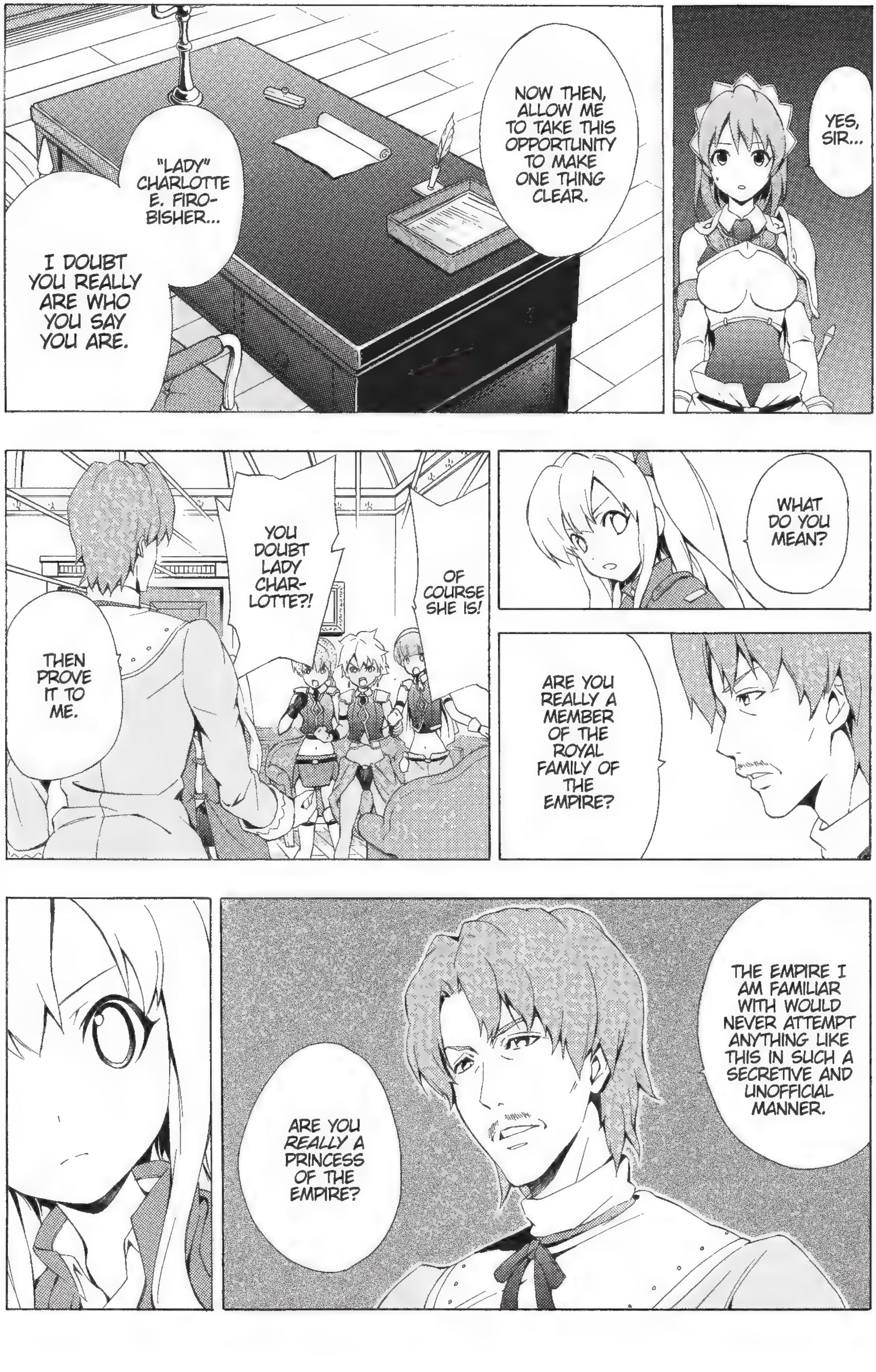

WHAT ARE THESE THREE DOING HERE?!
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN... COMPLICATED.
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.

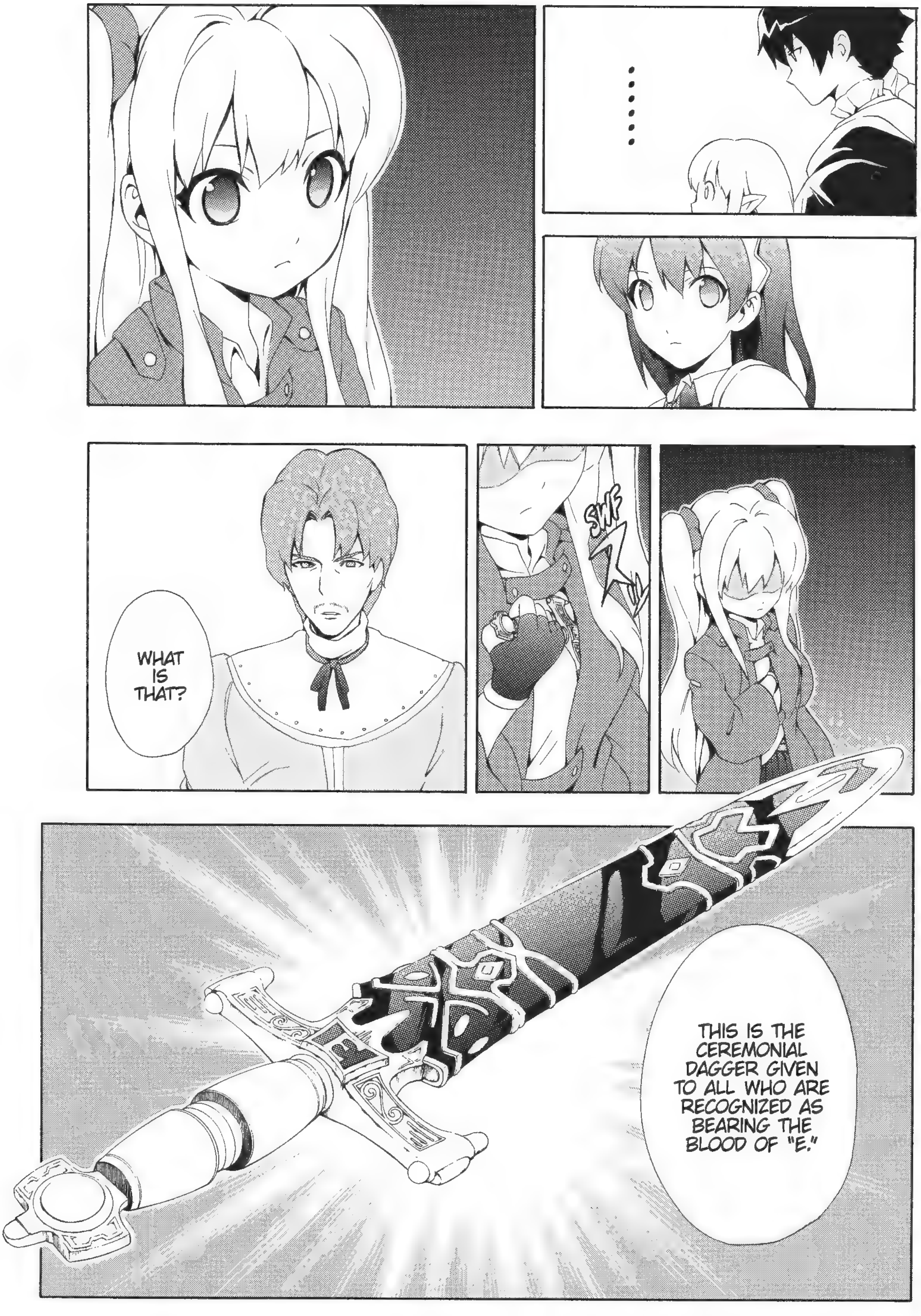

I AM CHARLOTTE E. FIROBISHER.
I AM A DESCENDANT OF THE EMPEROR HIMSELF, AND ONE GRANTED THE **PRIVILEGE** OF BEARING THE NAME "E."
WHAT!?
THEN... YOU'RE A PRINCESS OF THE EMPIRE?
YES. I CAME TO THIS TRADE CITY IN ORDER TO **NEGOTIATE.**

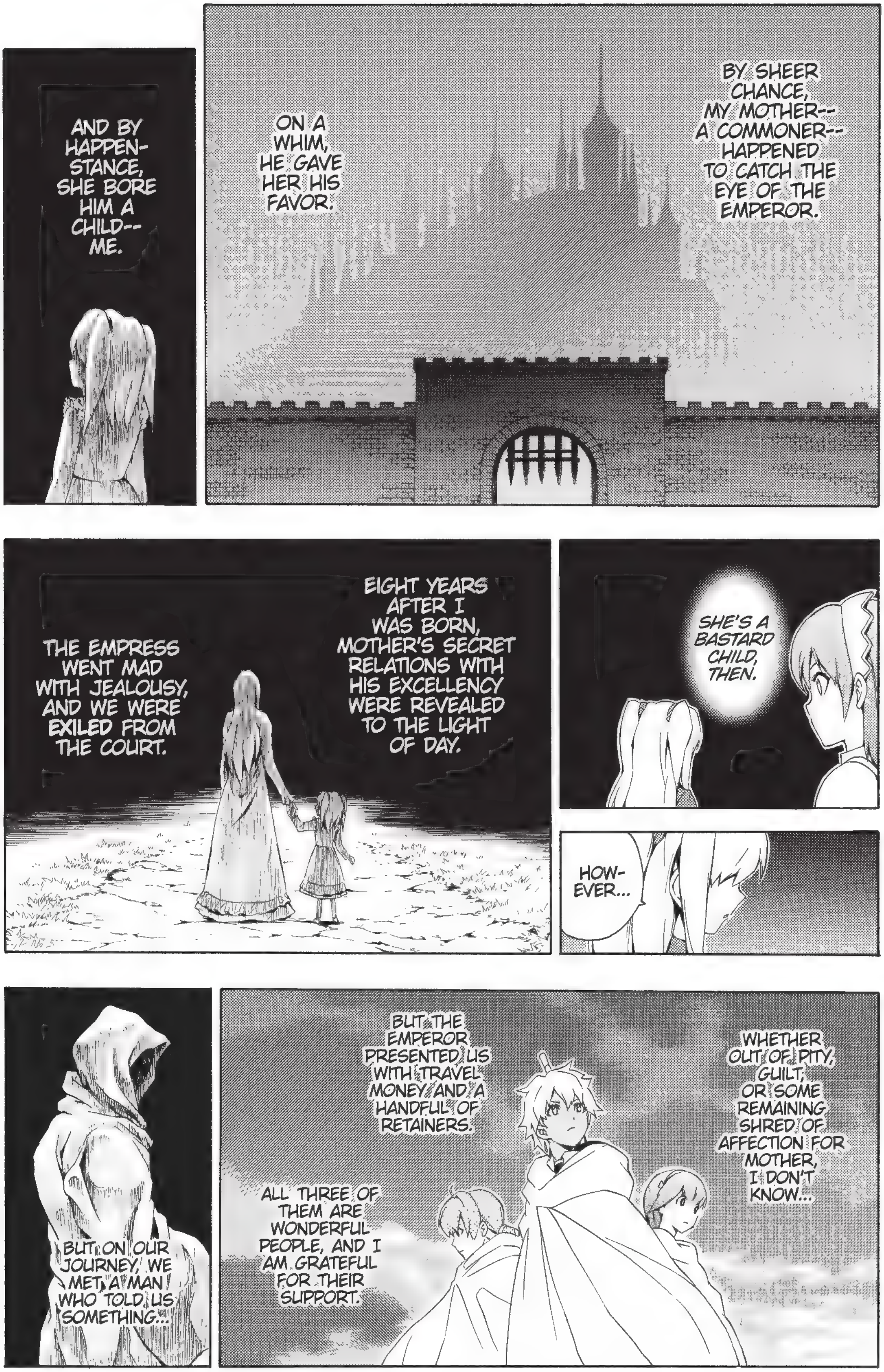

YOUR HIGHNESS, I BELIEVE I ALREADY EXPLAINED TO YOU...
YES, I UNDERSTAND IN REGARDS TO THE BLACKSMITH.
HOWEVER, I CANNOT RETURN HOME EMPTY-HANDED.
I WILL **BUY** THAT DEMON SWORD FROM YOU, THEN.
I WILL, OF COURSE, PAY AN APPROPRIATE SUM FOR IT.
THE EMPIRE VALUES DEMON BLADES HIGHLY.
I WILL ENTERTAIN **ANY** REASONABLE PRICE YOU NAME.
YOUR HIGHNESS, I'M AFRAID I MUST PROTEST YOUR ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS.
IN FACT, IT IS DANGEROUS FOR US EVEN TO BE *DISCUSSING* THIS HERE.
DANGEROUS? THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IF WE CONDUCT THIS AS A SIMPLE BUSINESS TRANSACTION BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE.
WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH THAT?
OR IS THIS TOWN, THAT PRIDES ITSELF ON BEING AN "INDEPENDENT" TRADE CITY, FRIGHTENED OF THE EMPIRE'S NAME?

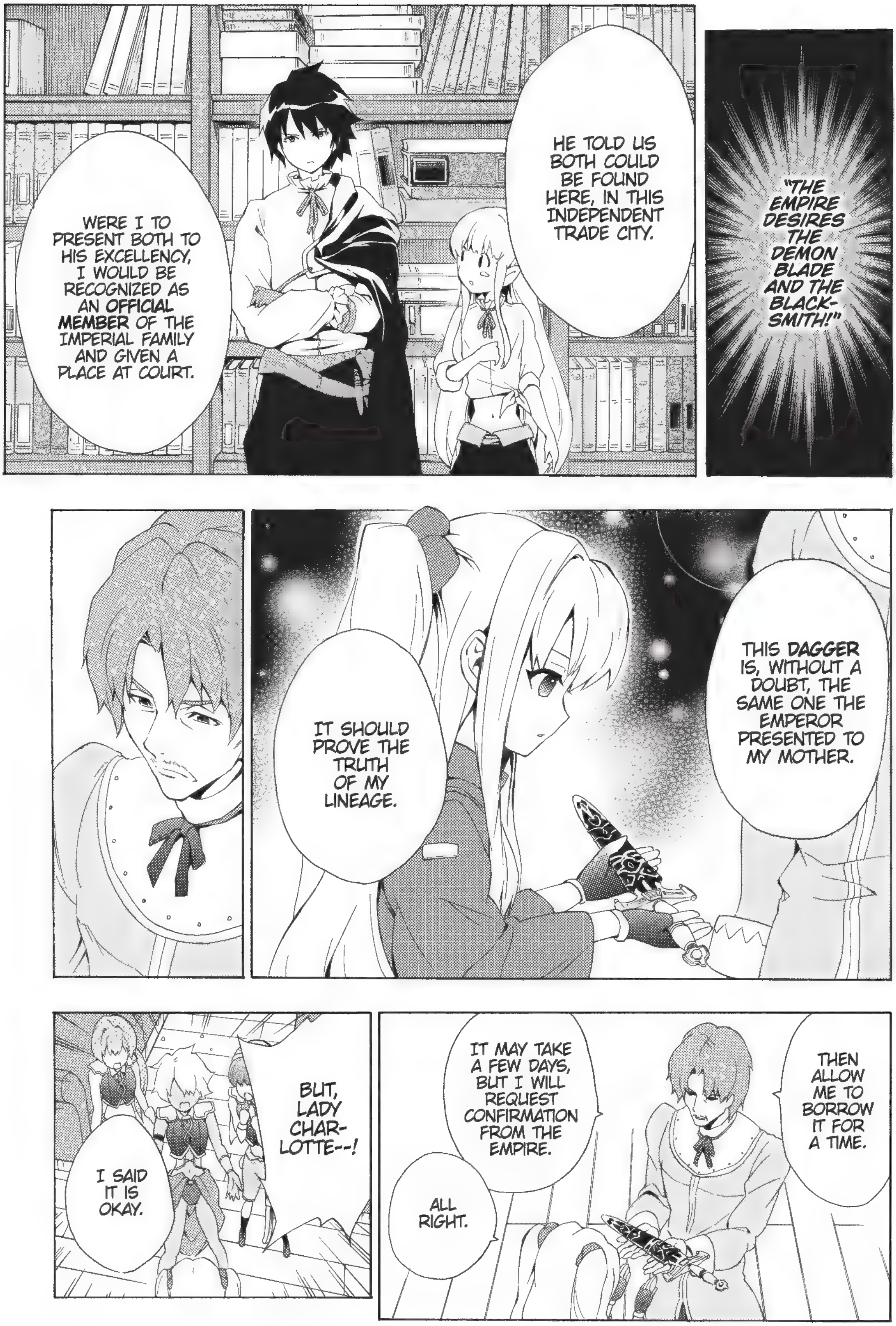

WHAT IS WITH YOUR ATTITUDE ?!
TUNK
YOU... YOU CAN'T SPEAK TO LADY CHARLOTTE LIKE THAT!
SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN !!
THIS WHOLE TIME, YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS. BUYING THINGS. SELLING THINGS.
ARIA IS NOT A "THING"!
GRRR
WHAT? THAT IS A DEMON BLADE. OF COURSE IT IS A "THING," AND IT IS ONLY RIGHT TO TREAT IT AS SUCH!
NO! ARIA HAS HER OWN MIND, HER OWN WILL.

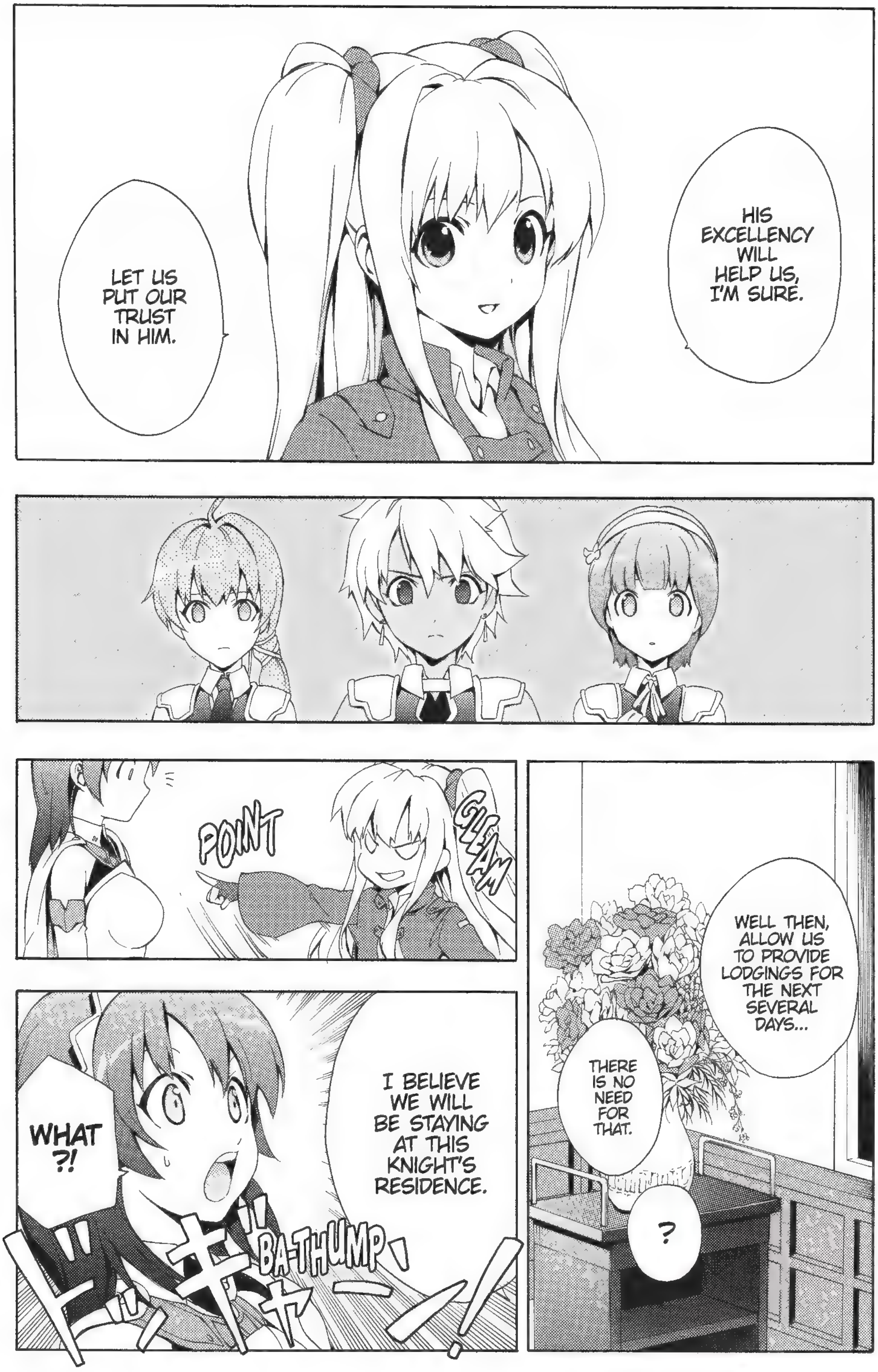

SHE EATS AND SLEEPS, LAUGHS AND CRIES, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN.
CECILY...
SHE IS MY FRIEND AND MY PARTNER!
I WILL NOT PERMIT ANYONE TO INSULT HER!
"NEGOTIATIONS," MY FOOT! THE VERY FIRST THING YOU DID WAS TO ATTEMPT TO *STEAL* ARIA FROM ME BY FORCE!
YOU DESERVE TO BE TRIED AND PUNISHED LIKE ANY OTHER THIEF!
RRRGH!
WE CANNOT DO THAT.
SUBJECTING FOREIGN ROYALTY TO OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM WOULD DESTROY THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE NATIONS.
BUT, CAPTAIN...!
CECILY, YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. THE "BALANCE" I SPEAK OF IS *FAR MORE* THAN JUST THAT OF POLITICAL POWER.
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN, SOMEDAY. FOR NOW, HOLD YOUR TONGUE AND STAND DOWN.

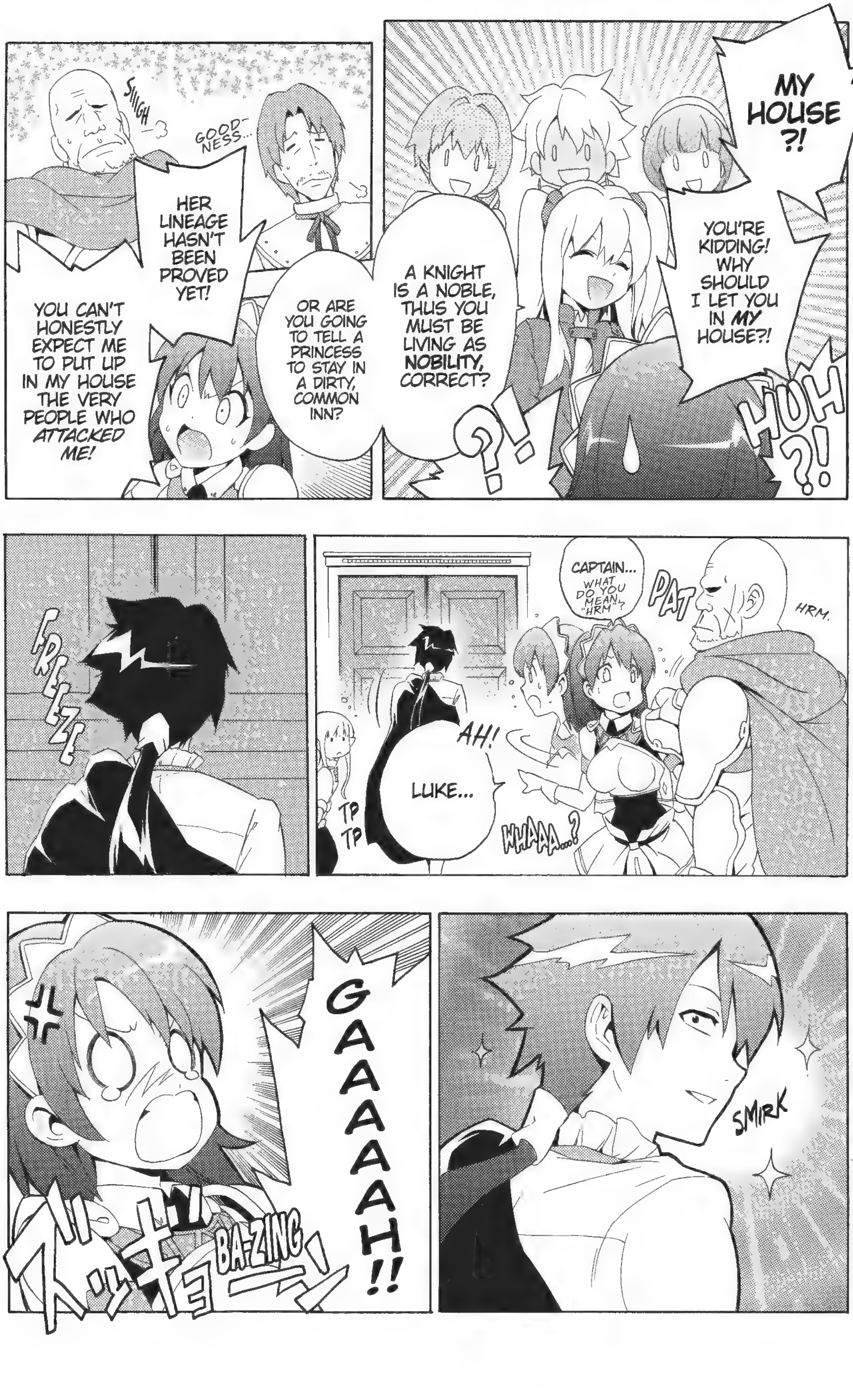

YES, SIR...
NOW THEN, ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ONE THING CLEAR.
"LADY" CHARLOTTE E. FIROBISHER...
I DOUBT YOU REALLY ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ARE YOU REALLY A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THE EMPIRE?
OF COURSE SHE IS!
YOU DOUBT LADY CHARLOTTE?!
THEN PROVE IT TO ME.
THE EMPIRE I AM FAMILIAR WITH WOULD NEVER ATTEMPT ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN SUCH A SECRETIVE AND UNOFFICIAL MANNER.
ARE YOU *REALLY* A PRINCESS OF THE EMPIRE?

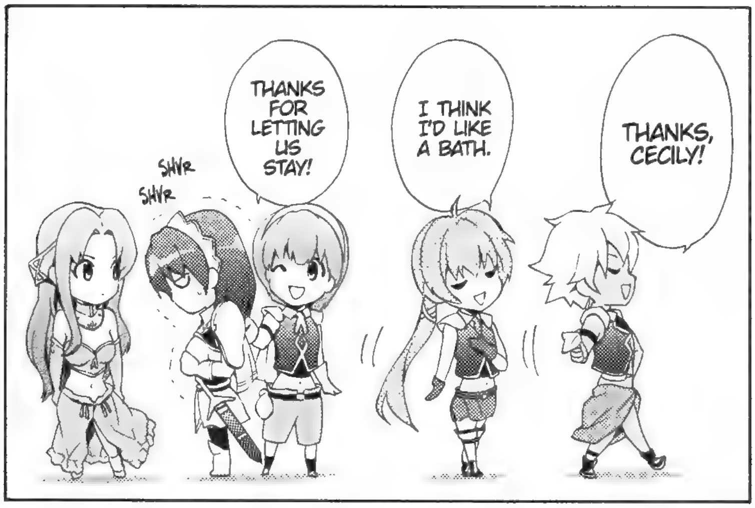

……
SWF
WHAT IS THAT?
THIS IS THE CEREMONIAL DAGGER GIVEN TO ALL WHO ARE RECOGNIZED AS BEARING THE BLOOD OF "E."

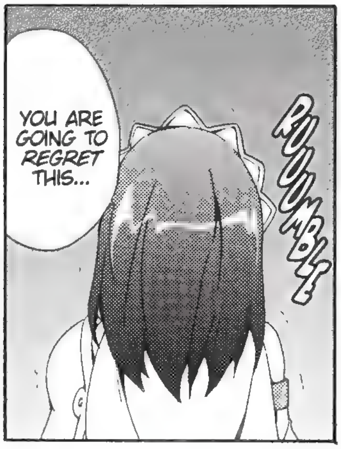

BY SHEER CHANCE, MY MOTHER--A COMMONER--HAPPENED TO CATCH THE EYE OF THE EMPEROR.
ON A WHIM, HE GAVE HER HIS FAVOR.
AND BY HAPPENSTANCE, SHE BORE HIM A CHILD--ME.
SHE'S A BASTARD CHILD, THEN.
HOWEVER...
EIGHT YEARS AFTER I WAS BORN, MOTHER'S SECRET RELATIONS WITH HIS EXCELLENCY WERE REVEALED TO THE LIGHT OF DAY.
THE EMPRESS WENT MAD WITH JEALOUSY, AND WE WERE EXILED FROM THE COURT.
WHETHER OUT OF PITY, GUILT, OR SOME REMAINING SHRED OF AFFECTION FOR MOTHER, I DON'T KNOW...
BUT THE EMPEROR PRESENTED US WITH TRAVEL MONEY AND A HANDFUL OF RETAINERS.
ALL THREE OF THEM ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT.
BUT ON OUR JOURNEY, WE MET A MAN WHO TOLD US SOMETHING...

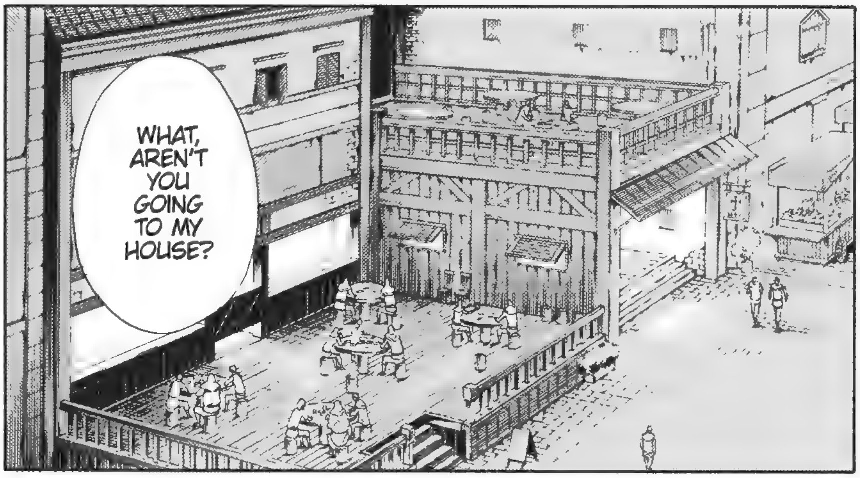

"THE EMPIRE DESIRES THE DEMON BLADE AND THE BLACKSMITH!"
HE TOLD US BOTH COULD BE FOUND HERE, IN THIS INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY.
WERE I TO PRESENT BOTH TO HIS EXCELLENCY, I WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS AN **OFFICIAL MEMBER** OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY AND GIVEN A PLACE AT COURT.
THIS **DAGGER** IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE SAME ONE THE EMPEROR PRESENTED TO MY MOTHER.
IT SHOULD PROVE THE TRUTH OF MY LINEAGE.
THEN ALLOW ME TO BORROW IT FOR A TIME.
IT MAY TAKE A FEW DAYS, BUT I WILL REQUEST CONFIRMATION FROM THE EMPIRE.
ALL RIGHT.
BUT, LADY CHARLOTTE--!
I SAID IT IS OKAY.

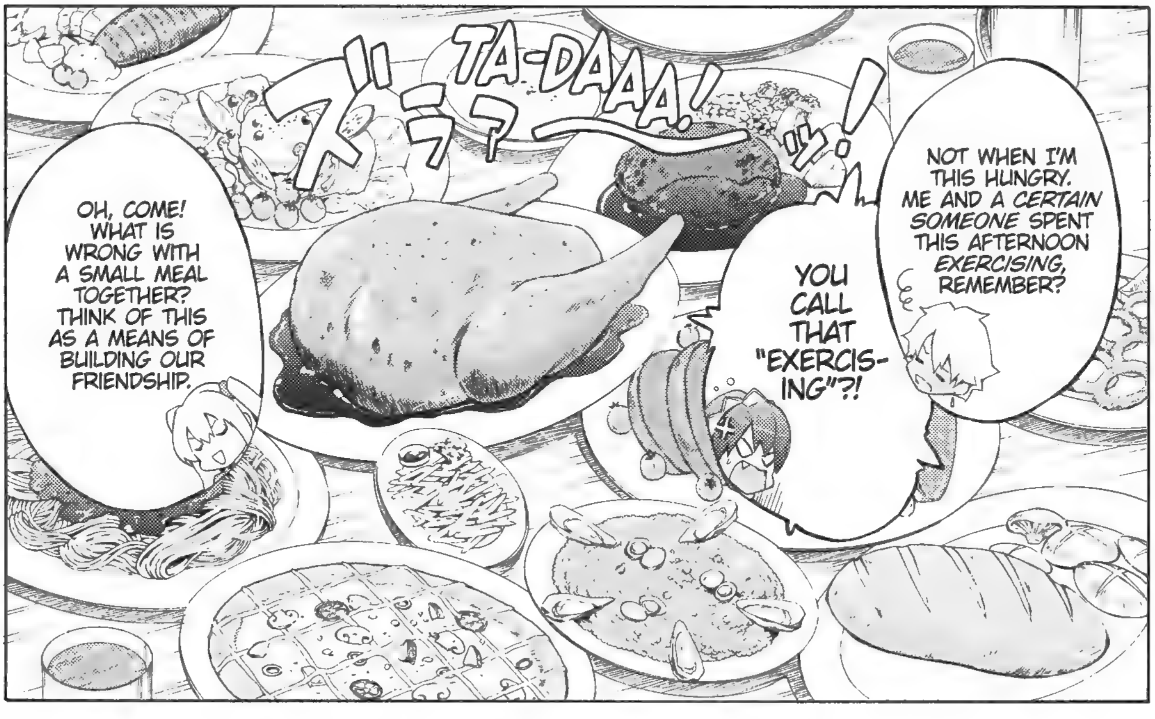

HIS EXCELLENCY WILL HELP US, I'M SURE.
LET US PUT OUR TRUST IN HIM.
WELL THEN, ALLOW US TO PROVIDE LODGINGS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS...
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT.
?
GLEAM
POINT
I BELIEVE WE WILL BE STAYING AT THIS KNIGHT'S RESIDENCE.
WHAT?!
BA-THUMP
ドッキャーン!

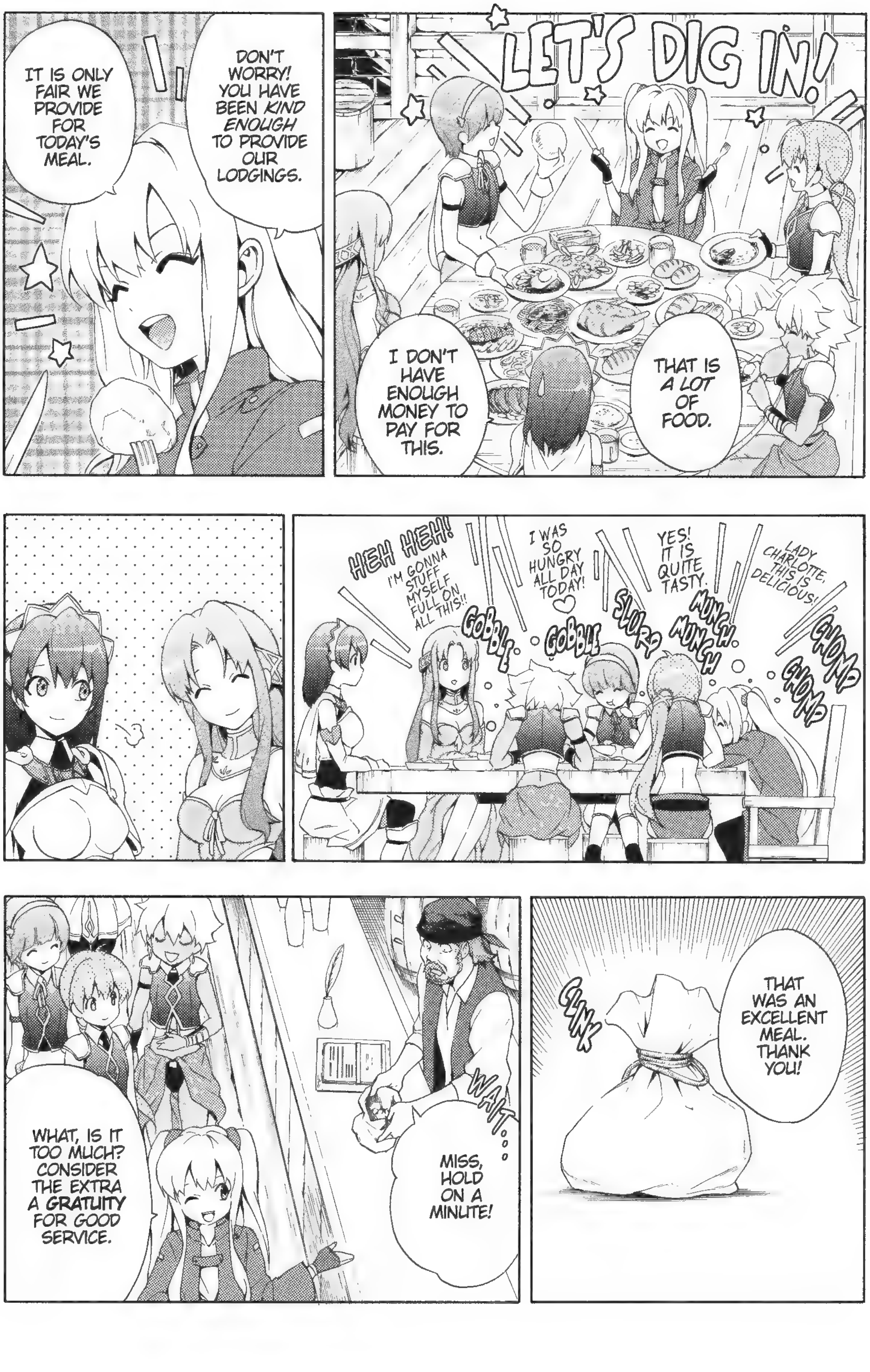

MY HOUSE?!
YOU'RE KIDDING! WHY SHOULD I LET YOU IN *MY* HOUSE?!
HUH?!
A KNIGHT IS A NOBLE, THUS YOU MUST BE LIVING AS **NOBILITY**, CORRECT?
?!
OR ARE YOU GOING TO TELL A PRINCESS TO STAY IN A DIRTY, COMMON INN?
GOODNESS...
SIIGH
HER LINEAGE HASN'T BEEN PROVED YET!
YOU CAN'T HONESTLY EXPECT ME TO PUT UP IN MY HOUSE THE VERY PEOPLE WHO *ATTACKED* ME!
HRM.
PAT
CAPTAIN... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HRM"?
AH!
LUKE...
WHAAA...?
TP TP
FREEZE
SMIRK
GAAAAAAH!!
BA-ZING
ズッキョーン

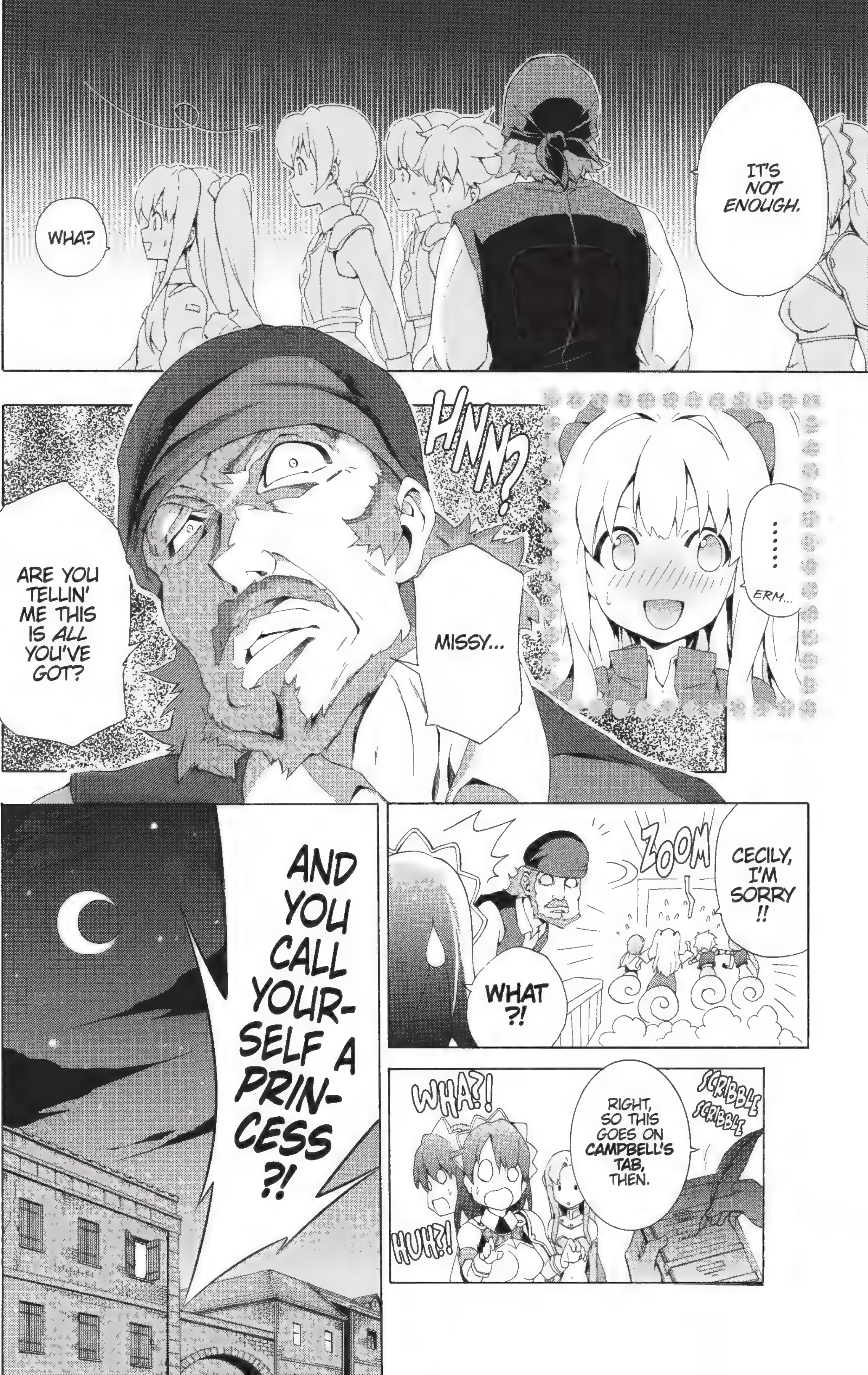

THANKS, CECILY!
I THINK I'D LIKE A BATH.
THANKS FOR LETTING US STAY!
SHVR SHVR


RUUUMBLE
YOU ARE GOING TO *REGRET* THIS...


WHAT, AREN'T YOU GOING TO MY HOUSE?


ズラァーッ!
TA-DAAA!
NOT WHEN I'M THIS HUNGRY. ME AND A *CERTAIN SOMEONE* SPENT THIS AFTERNOON *EXERCISING*, REMEMBER?
YOU CALL THAT "EXERCISING"?!
OH, COME! WHAT IS WRONG WITH A SMALL MEAL TOGETHER? THINK OF THIS AS A MEANS OF BUILDING OUR FRIENDSHIP.


LET'S DIG IN!
THAT IS A LOT OF FOOD.
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THIS.
DON'T WORRY! YOU HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO PROVIDE OUR LODGINGS.
IT IS ONLY FAIR WE PROVIDE FOR TODAY'S MEAL.
LADY CHARLOTTE, THIS IS DELICIOUS!
CHOMP CHOMP
YES! IT IS QUITE TASTY.
MUNCH MUNCH
SLURP
I WAS SO HUNGRY ALL DAY TODAY! ♡
GOBBLE GOBBLE
HEH HEH! I'M GONNA STUFF MYSELF FULL ON ALL THIS!!
CLINK
THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT MEAL. THANK YOU!
WAIT...
MISS, HOLD ON A MINUTE!
WHAT, IS IT TOO MUCH? CONSIDER THE EXTRA A GRATUITY FOR GOOD SERVICE.


IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
WHA?
......
ERM...
HNN?!
MISSY...
ARE YOU TELLIN' ME THIS IS ALL YOU'VE GOT?
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A PRINCESS?!
CECILY, I'M SORRY!!
ZOOM
WHAT?!
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
RIGHT, SO THIS GOES ON CAMPBELL'S TAB, THEN.
WHA?!
HUH?!

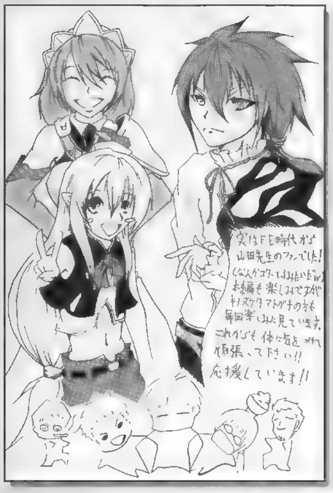
Charlotte E. Firobisher

アトリエ

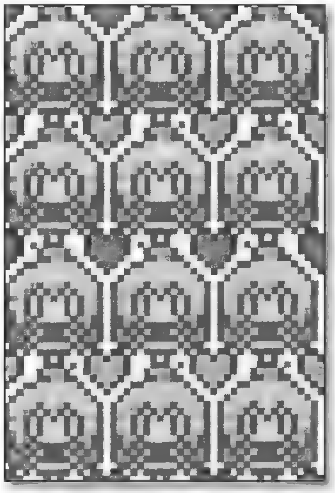
工房リーザ

atelier Liza BRANCH OFFICE I

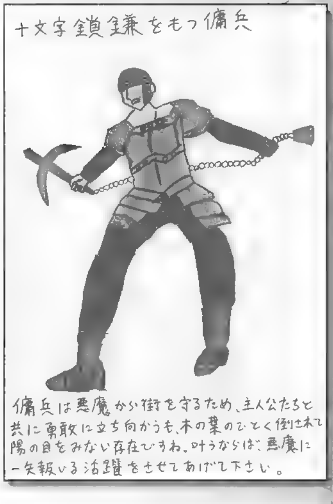
Welcome to the Grand Opening of the Atelier Liza Branch Office! Take a look at these great fan art postcards!


実はFE時代から
山田先生のファンでした!
(なんかコクってるみたいだw)
本編も楽しみですが
キノヌケタマトガキの方も
毎回楽しみに見ています。
これからも体に気をつけて
頑張って下さい!!
応援しています!!

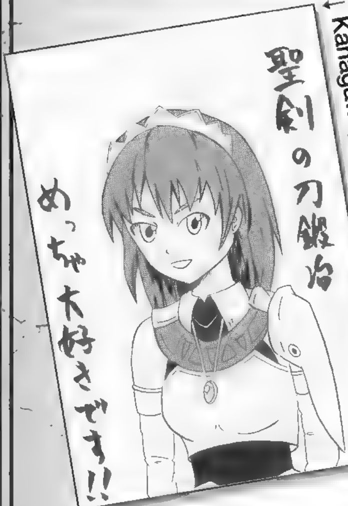
↑ Saitama, Kengo Tokuda



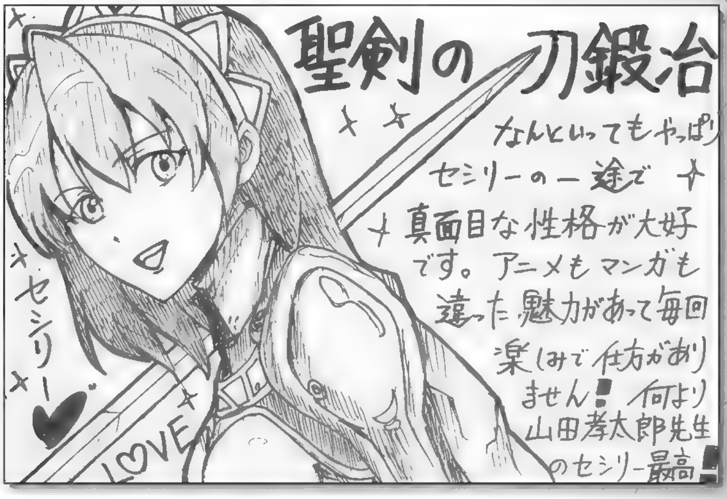
↑ Okayama, Kouji Ri


十文字鎖鎌をもつ傭兵
傭兵は悪魔から街を守るため、主人公たちと
共に勇敢に立ち向かうも、木の葉のごとく倒され
陽の目をみない存在ですね。叶うならば、悪魔に
一矢報いる活躍をさせてあげて下さい。

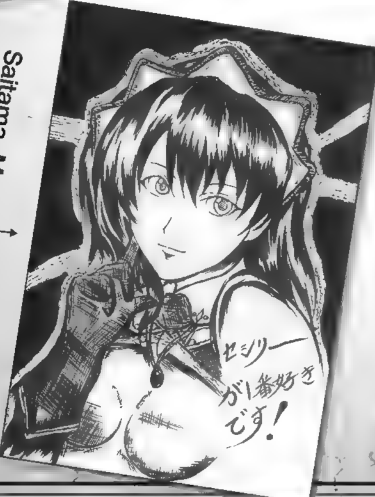
↑ Osaka, Eihiko Nishii


聖剣の刀鍛冶
めっちゃ大好きです!!

← Kanagawa, Yuji Hamada

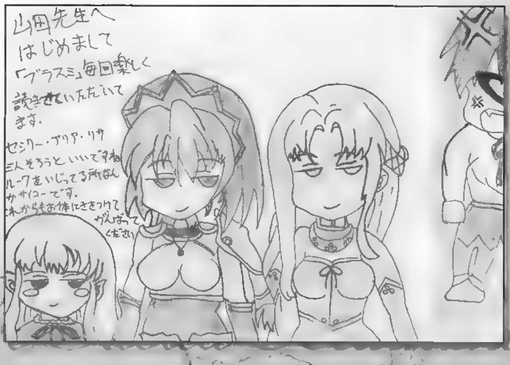

聖剣の刀鍛冶
なんといってもやっぱり
セシリーの一途で
真面目な性格が大好
です。アニメもマンガも
違った魅力があって毎回
楽しみで仕方があり
ません! 何より
山田孝太郎先生
のセシリー最高!
セシリー♥
LOVE

Okuyama, Hide-kun↑

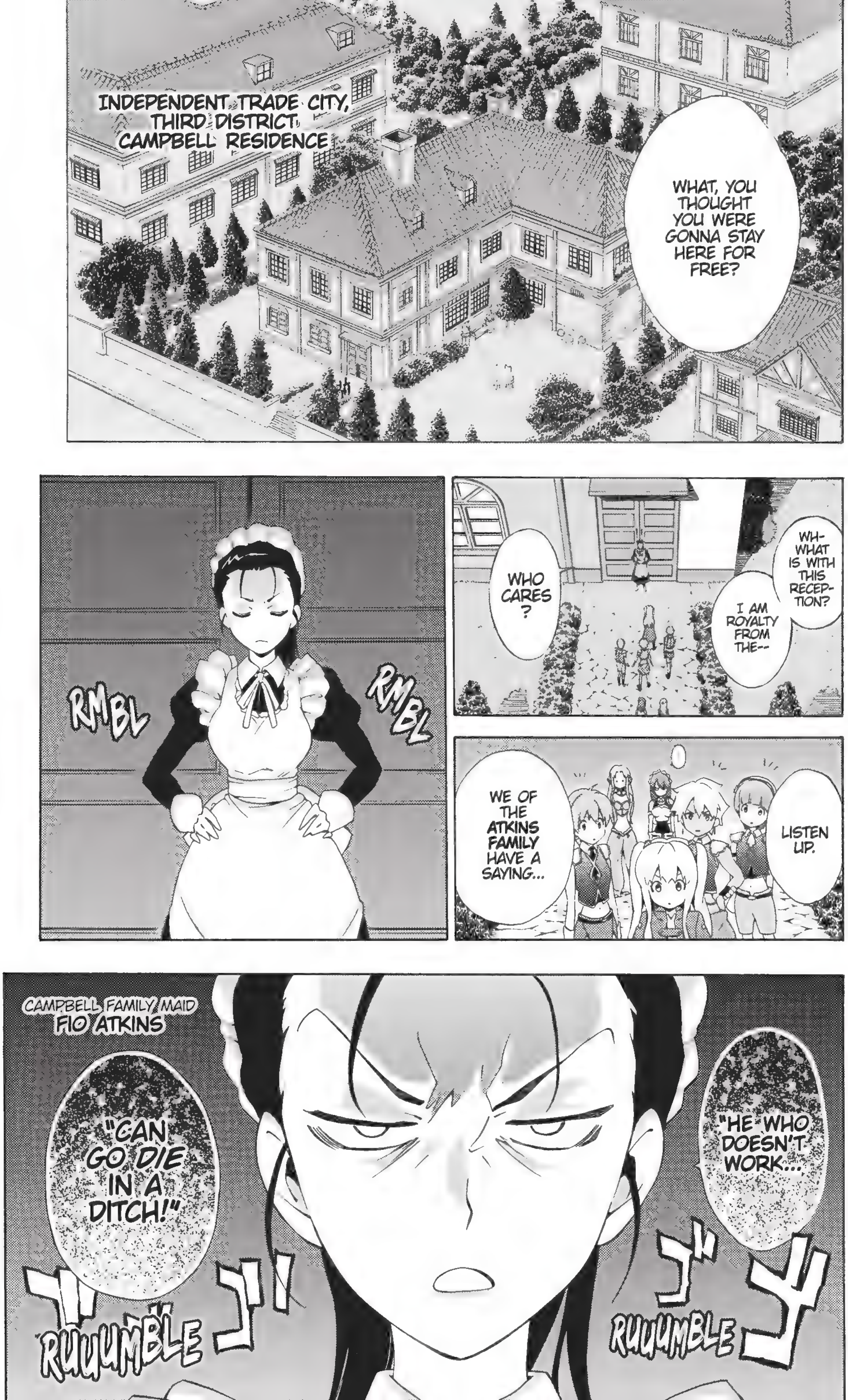

セシリーが1番好きです!

Saitama, Muneyuki Yamauchi ←

Thanks for all the excellent drawings of me!
And I especially appreciate the wonderful messages!

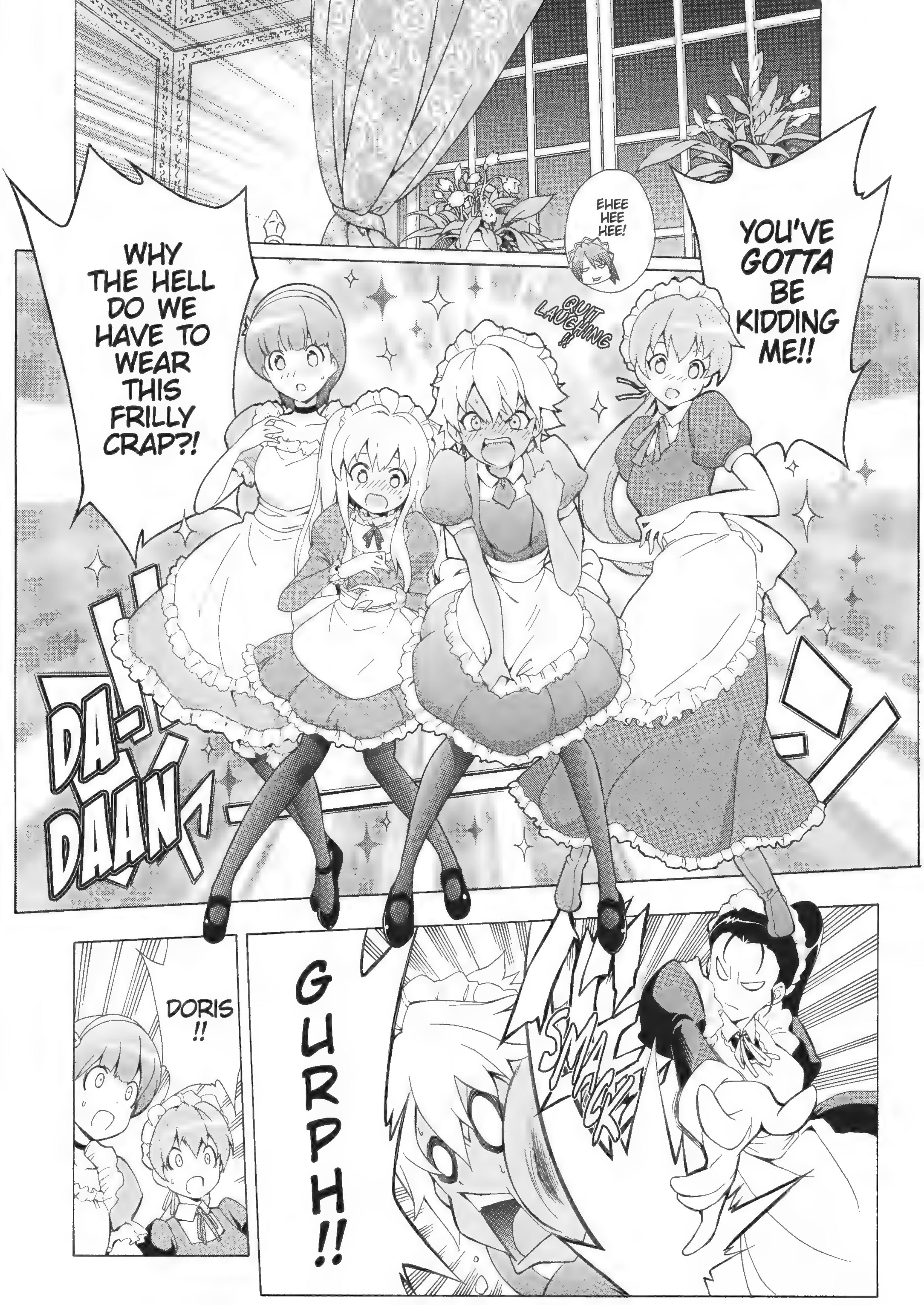

山田先生へ
はじめまして
「ブラスミ」毎回楽しく
読ませていただいて
ます。
セシリー・アリア・リサ
三人そろうといいですね
ルークをいじってる所なん
かサイコーです。
これからもお体にきをつけて
がんばって
ください

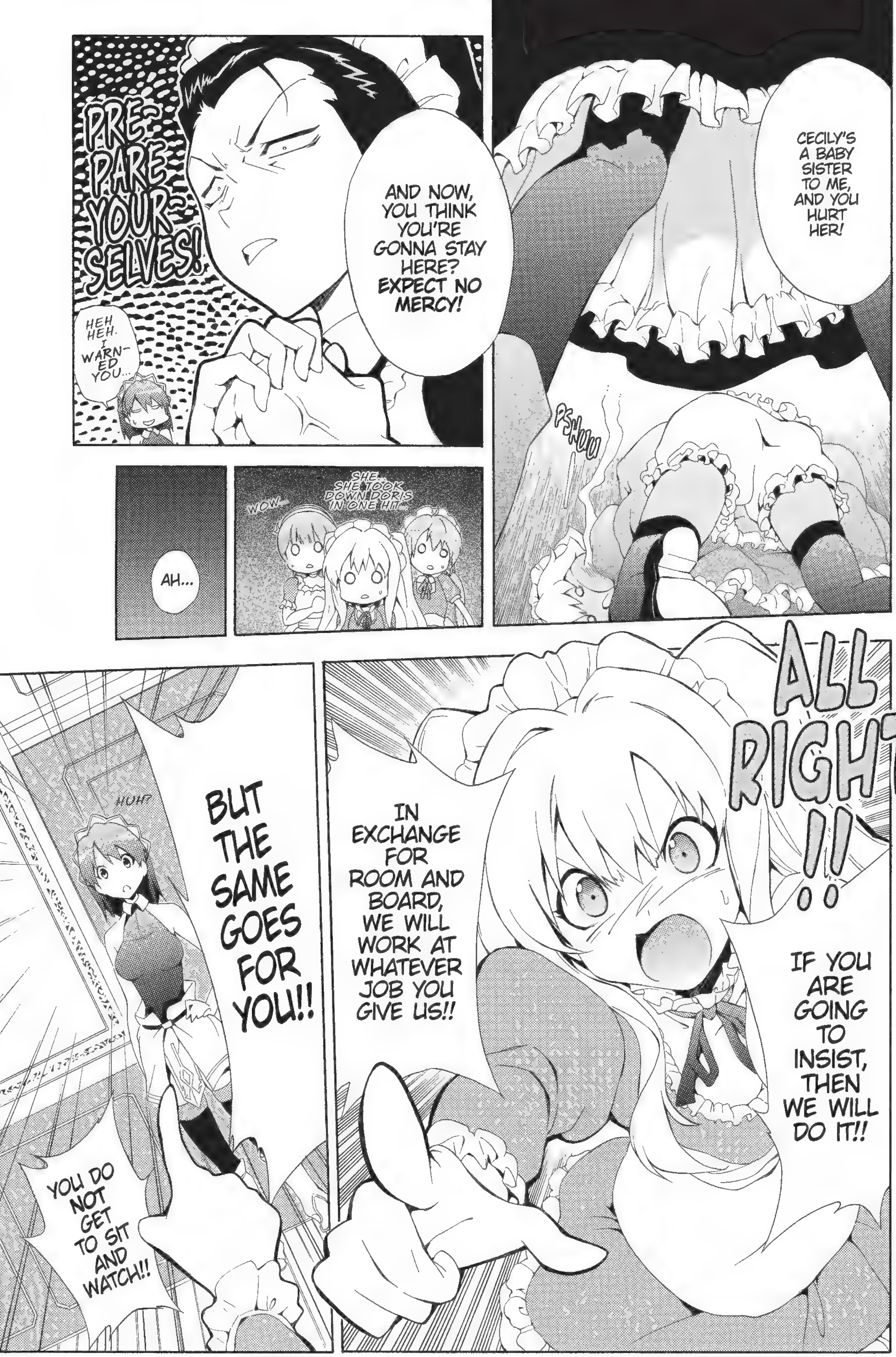
↑ Tochigi, Yama-chan

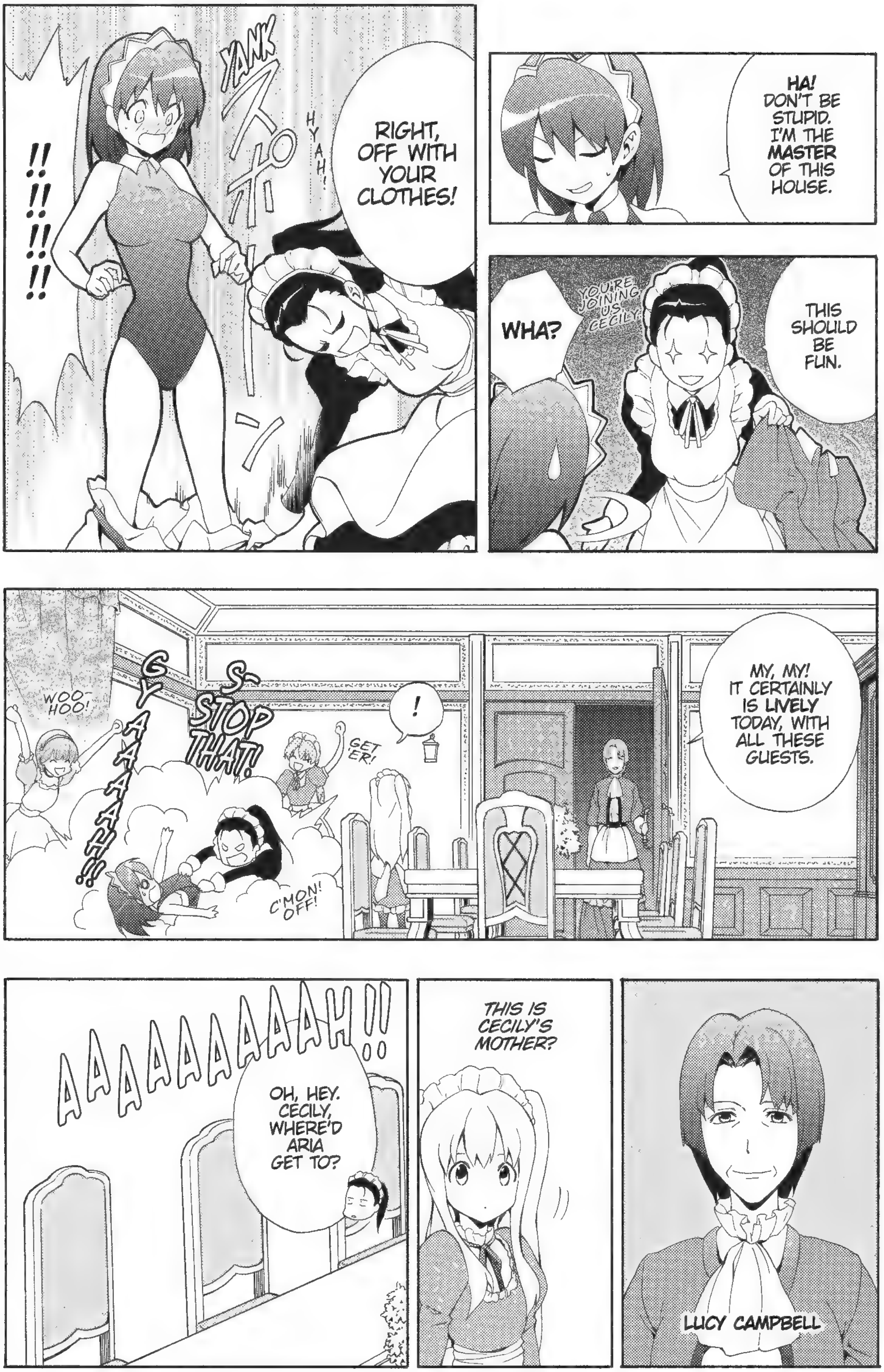

INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY, THIRD DISTRICT CAMPBELL RESIDENCE
WHAT, YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA STAY HERE FOR FREE?
WH-WHAT IS WITH THIS RECEPTION?
I AM ROYALTY FROM THE--
WHO CARES?
LISTEN UP.
WE OF THE ATKINS FAMILY HAVE A SAYING...
RMBL
RMBL
CAMPBELL FAMILY MAID FIO ATKINS
"HE WHO DOESN'T WORK...
"CAN GO DIE IN A DITCH!"
ゴゴゴ
RUUUMBLE
ゴゴ
RUUUMBLE

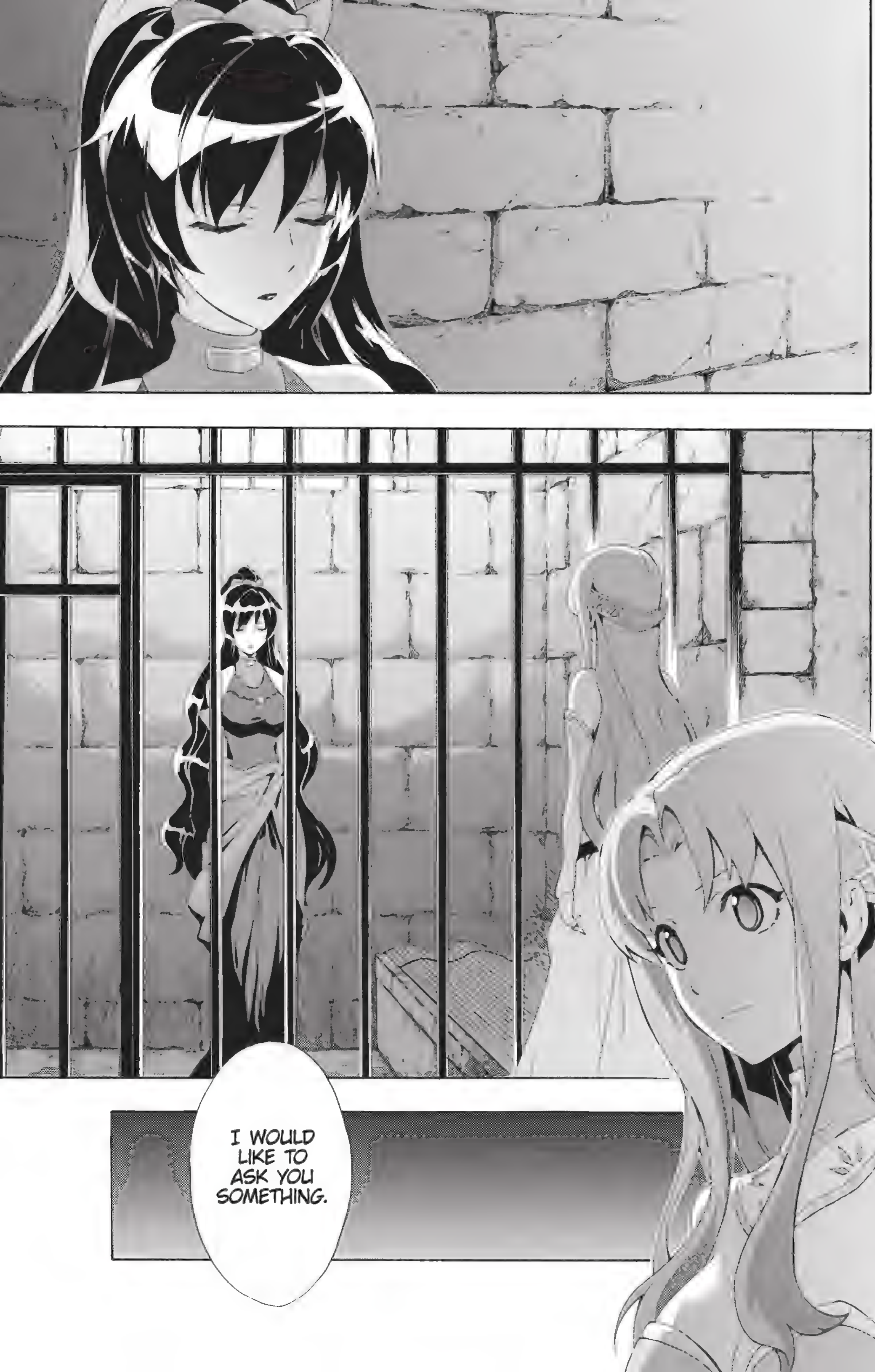
Chapter 10 Princess

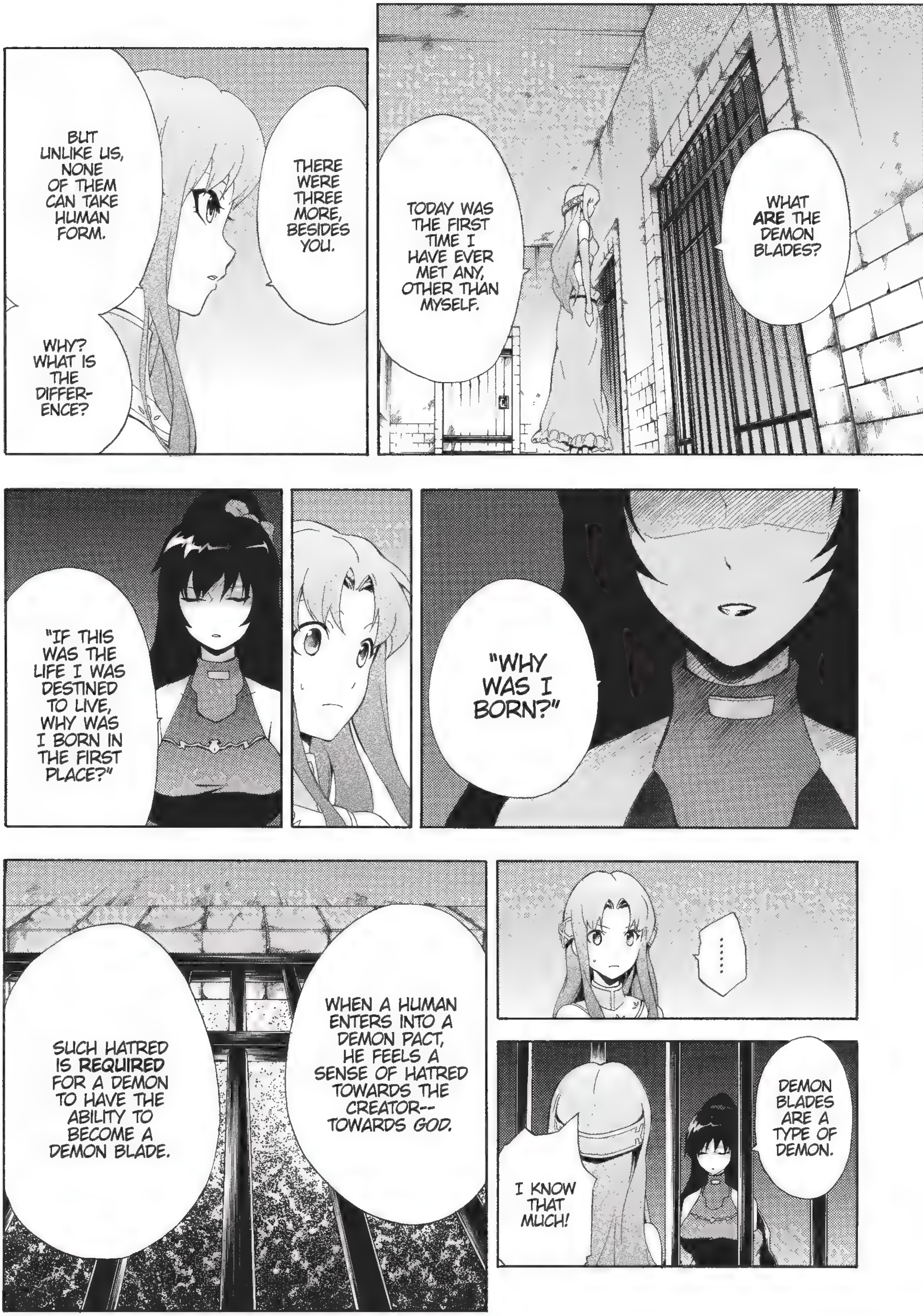
(Part 3)

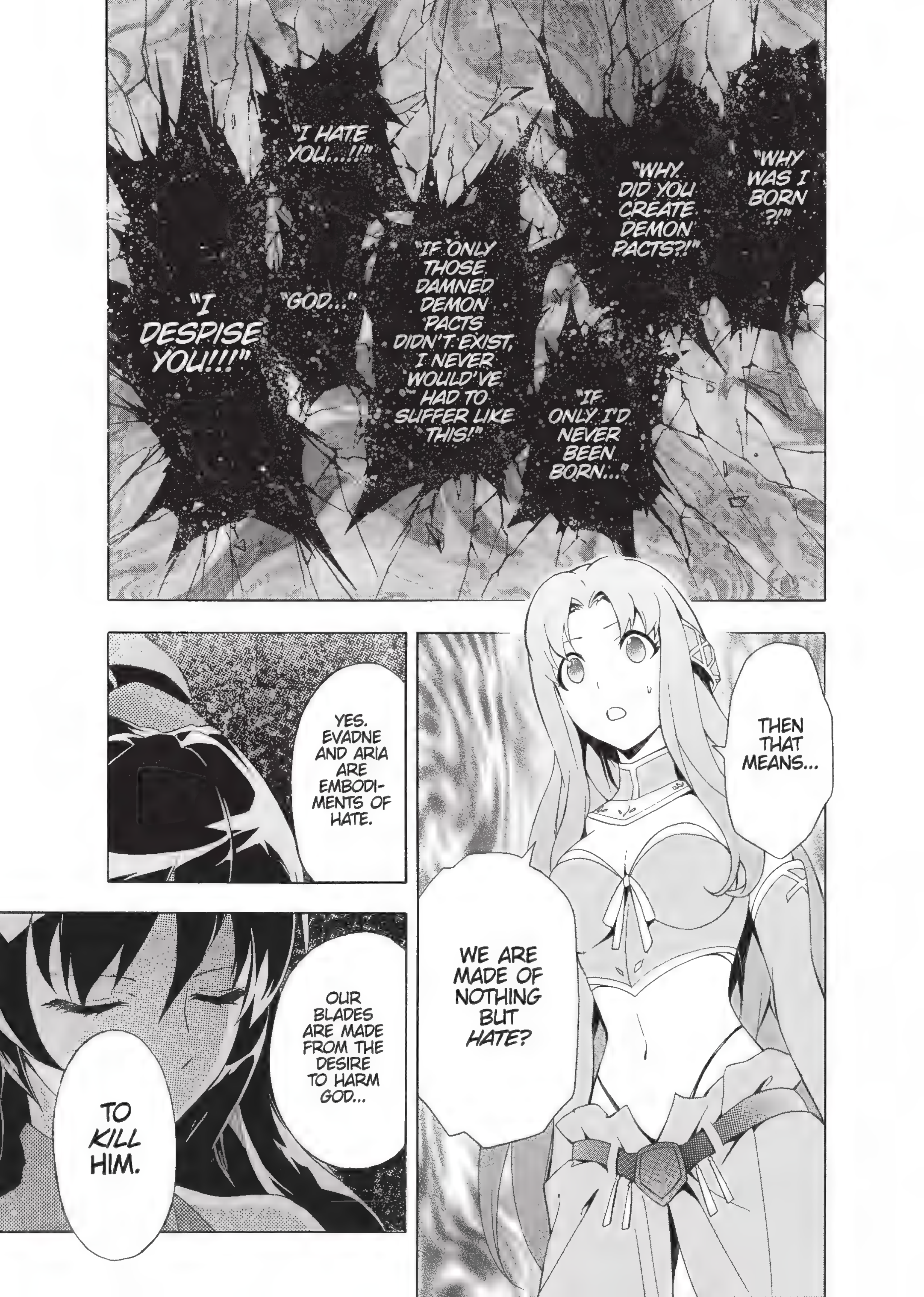

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!
EHEE HEE HEE!
QUIT LAUGHING!!
WHY THE HELL DO WE HAVE TO WEAR THIS FRILLY CRAP?!
DA-DAAN
SMACK!!
GURPH!!
DORIS!!

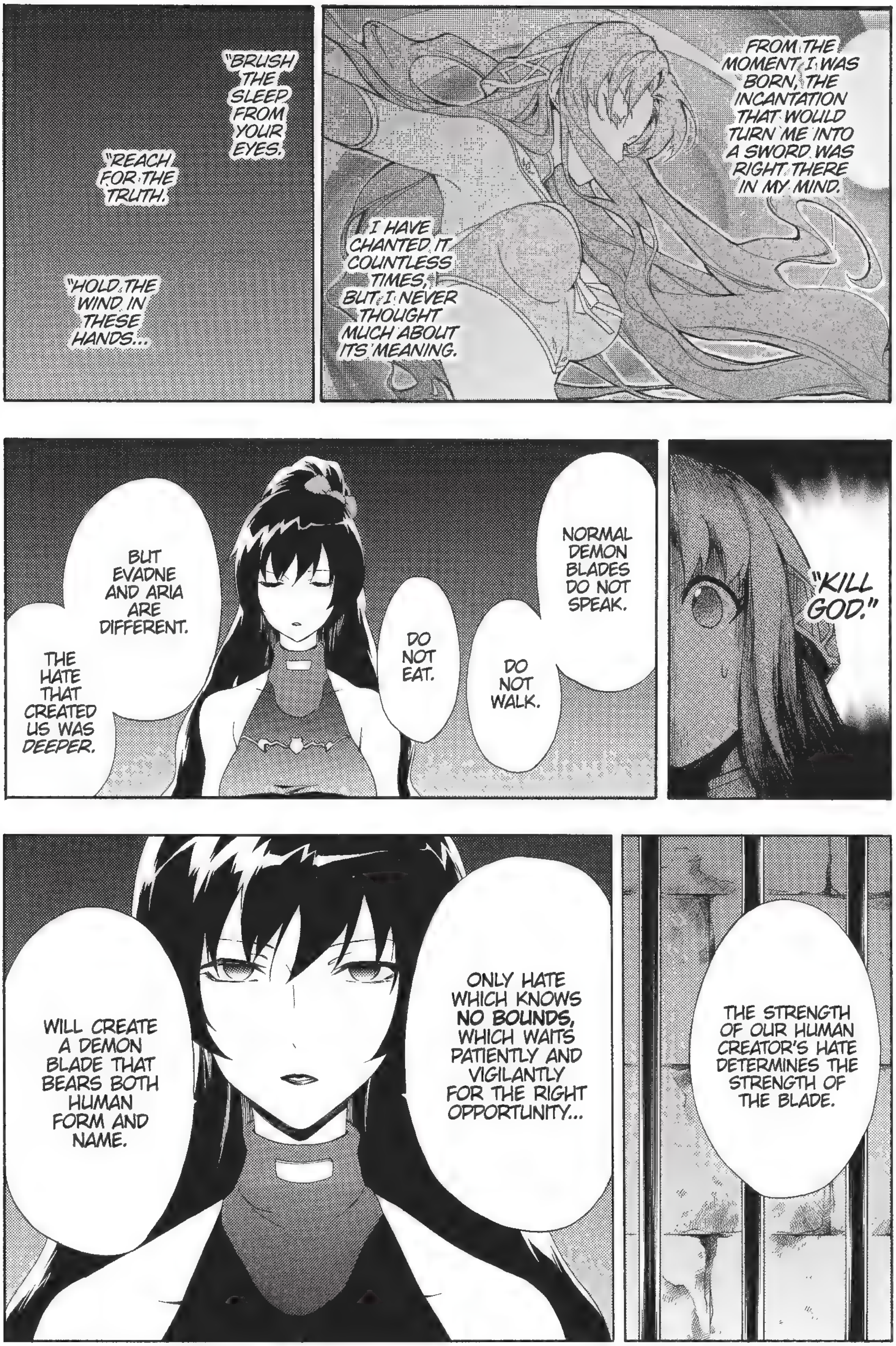

CECILY'S A BABY SISTER TO ME, AND YOU HURT HER!
PSHUU
AND NOW, YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA STAY HERE? EXPECT NO MERCY!
PREPARE YOURSELVES!
HEH HEH. I WARNED YOU...
SHE... SHE TOOK DOWN DORIS IN ONE HIT...
WOW...
AH...
ALL RIGHT!!
IF YOU ARE GOING TO INSIST, THEN WE WILL DO IT!!
IN EXCHANGE FOR ROOM AND BOARD, WE WILL WORK AT WHATEVER JOB YOU GIVE US!!
BUT THE SAME GOES FOR YOU!!
HUH?
YOU DO NOT GET TO SIT AND WATCH!!

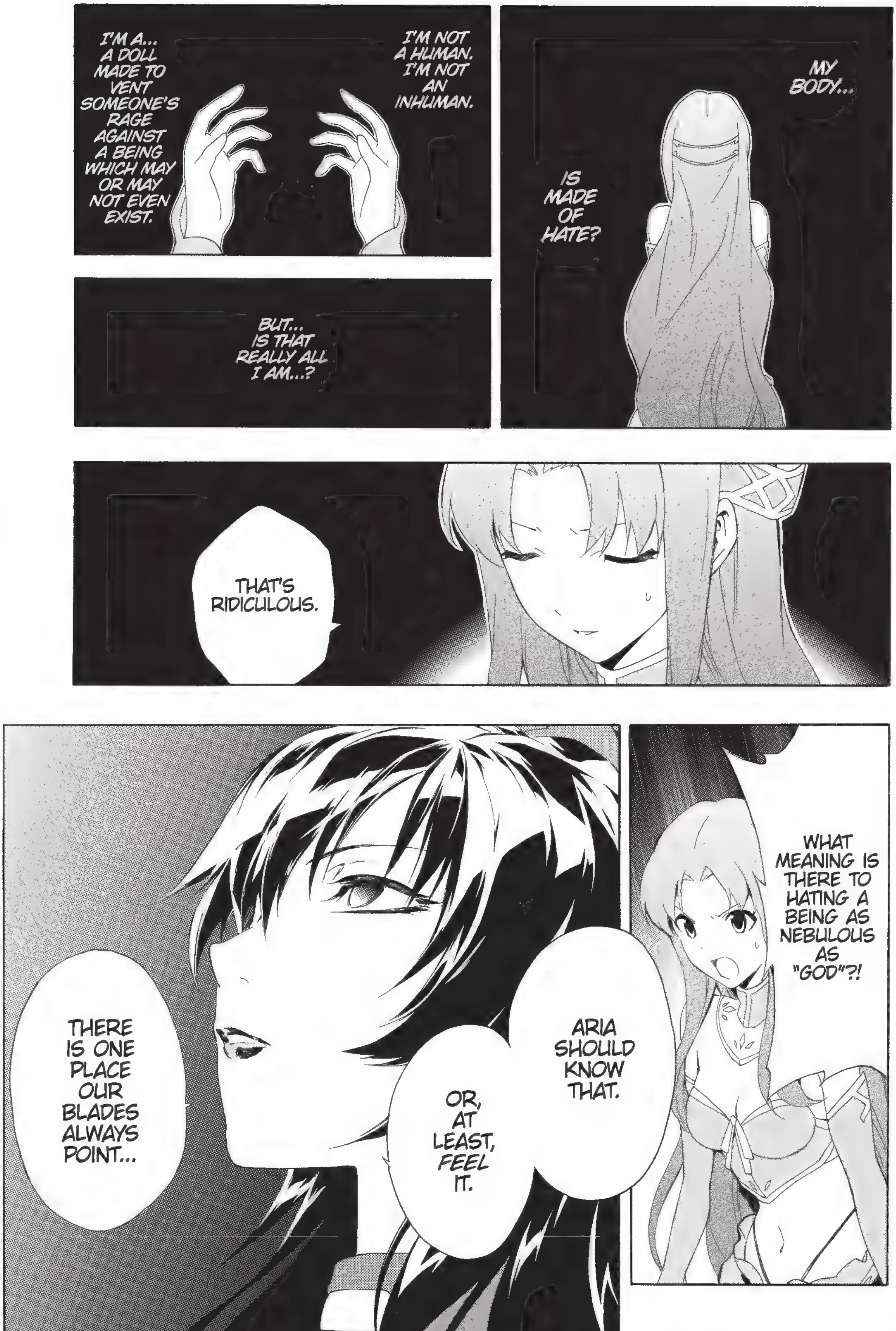

HA! DON'T BE STUPID. I'M THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE.
THIS SHOULD BE FUN.
YOU'RE JOINING US, CECILY.
WHA?
RIGHT, OFF WITH YOUR CLOTHES!
HYAH!
YANK
!!!!!!!!
MY, MY! IT CERTAINLY IS LIVELY TODAY, WITH ALL THESE GUESTS.
!
GET 'ER!
S-STOP THAT!
GYAAAAAAH!!
WOO-HOO!
C'MON! OFF!
LUCY CAMPBELL
THIS IS CECILY'S MOTHER?
OH, HEY. CECILY, WHERE'D ARIA GET TO?
AAAAAAAAAH!!

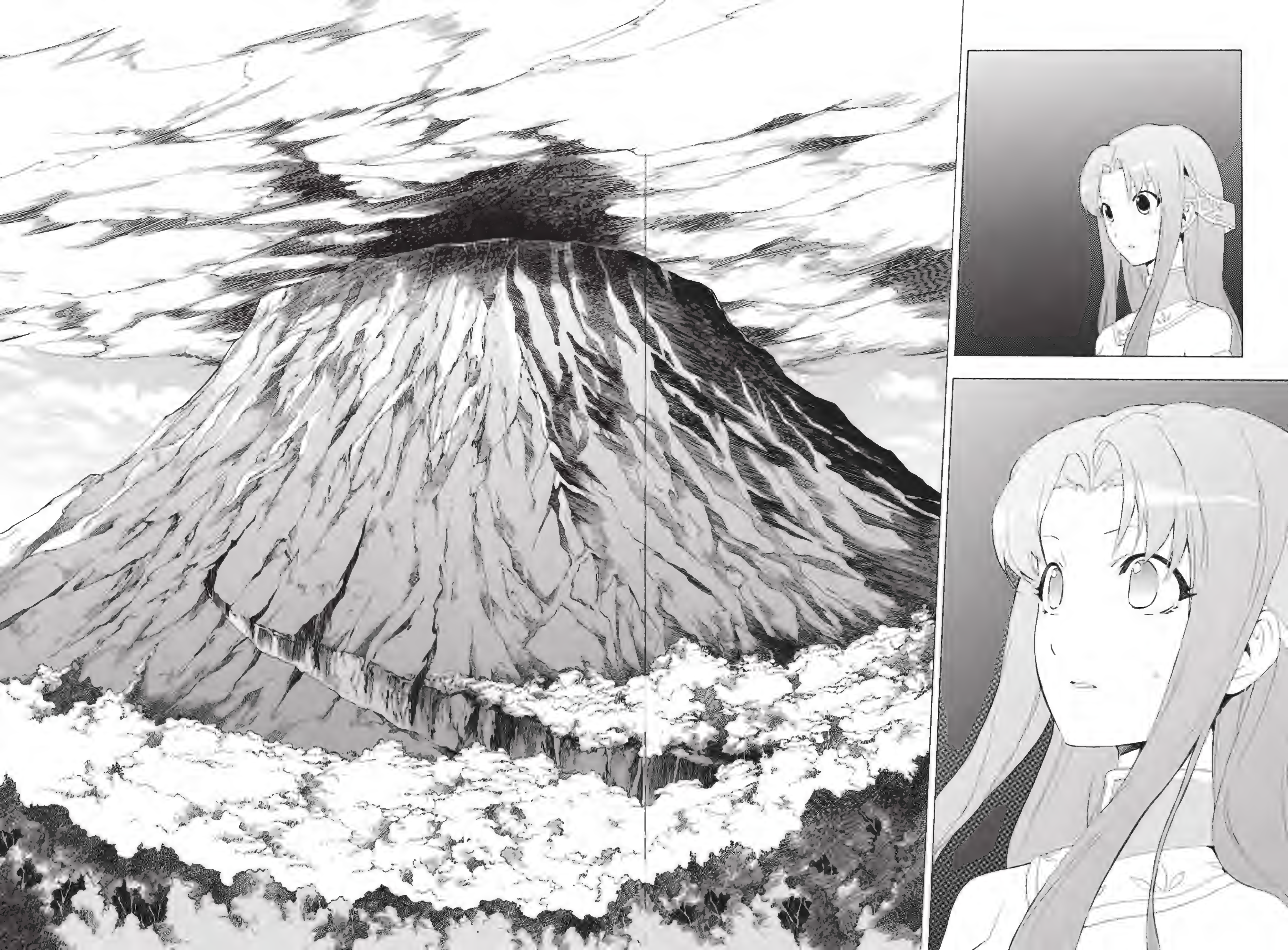

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

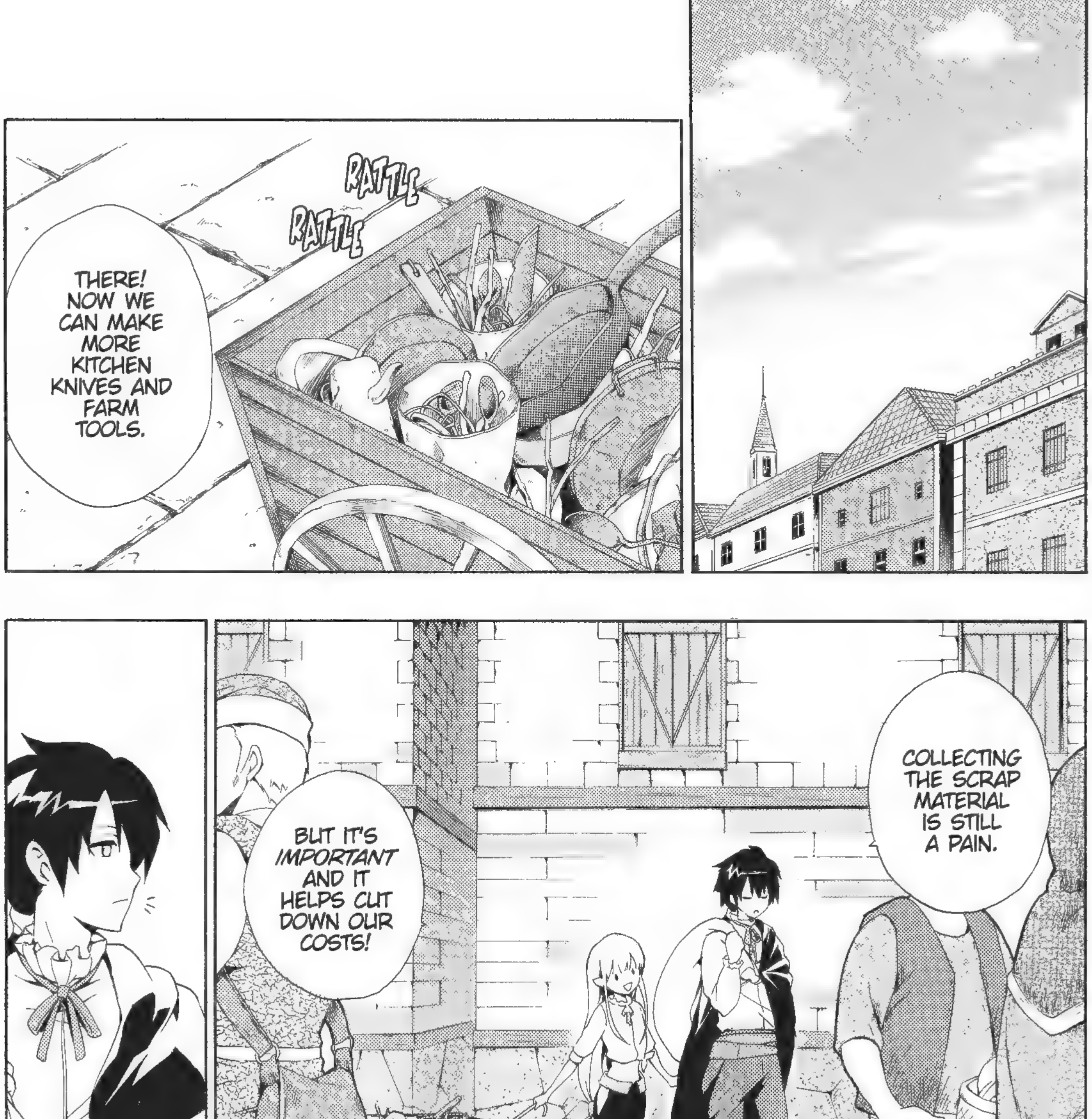

WHAT **ARE** THE DEMON BLADES?
TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER MET ANY, OTHER THAN MYSELF.
THERE WERE THREE MORE, BESIDES YOU.
BUT UNLIKE US, NONE OF THEM CAN TAKE HUMAN FORM.
WHY? WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?
"WHY WAS I BORN?"
"IF THIS WAS THE LIFE I WAS DESTINED TO LIVE, WHY WAS I BORN IN THE FIRST PLACE?"
......
DEMON BLADES ARE A TYPE OF DEMON.
I KNOW THAT MUCH!
WHEN A HUMAN ENTERS INTO A DEMON PACT, HE FEELS A SENSE OF HATRED TOWARDS THE CREATOR--TOWARDS GOD.
SUCH HATRED IS **REQUIRED** FOR A DEMON TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO BECOME A DEMON BLADE.

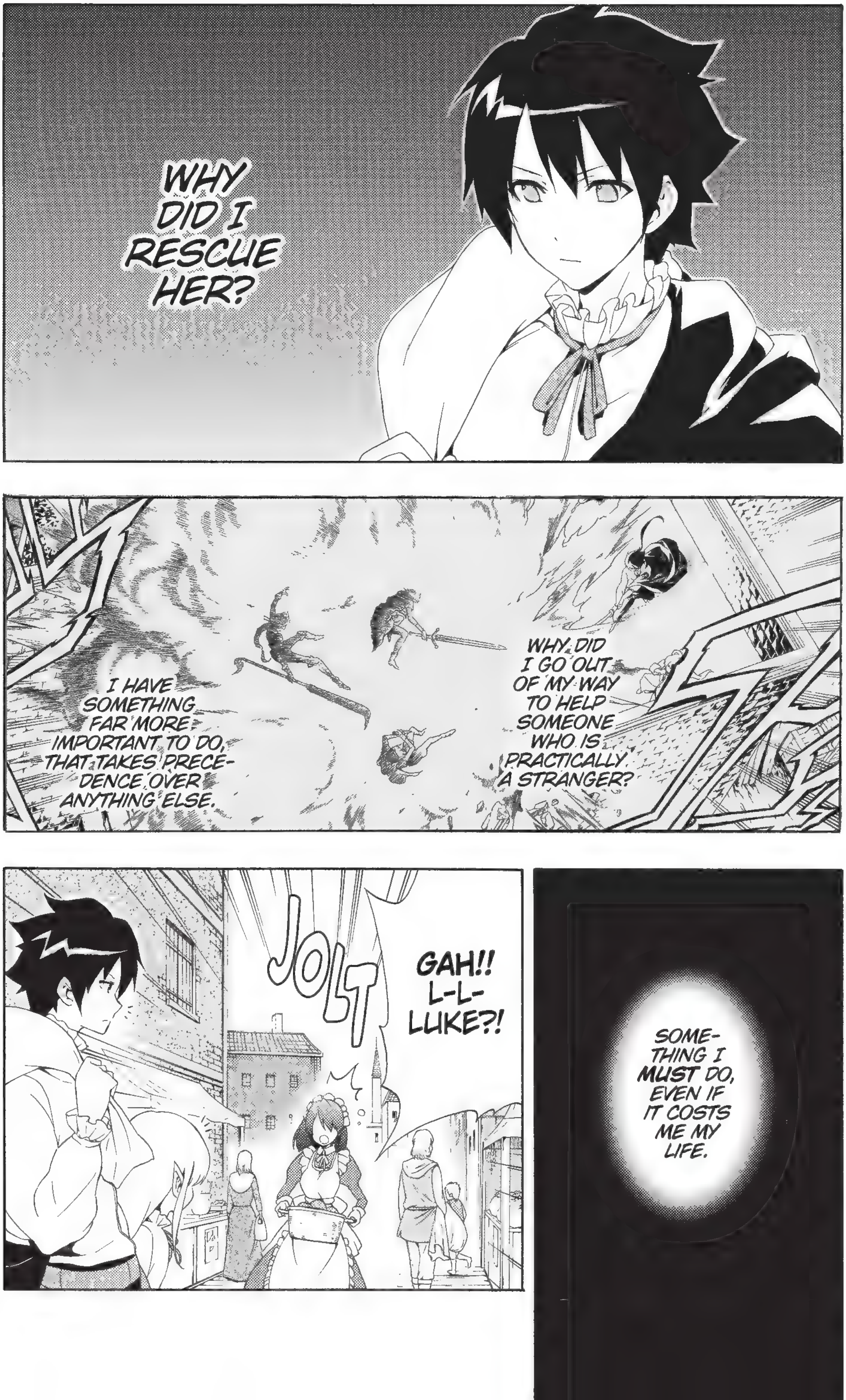

"WHY WAS I BORN?!"
"WHY DID YOU CREATE DEMON PACTS?!"
"IF ONLY I'D NEVER BEEN BORN..."
"IF ONLY THOSE DAMNED DEMON PACTS DIDN'T EXIST, I NEVER WOULD'VE HAD TO SUFFER LIKE THIS!"
"I HATE YOU...!!"
"GOD..."
"I DESPISE YOU!!!"
THEN THAT MEANS...
WE ARE MADE OF NOTHING BUT *HATE*?
YES. EVADNE AND ARIA ARE EMBODIMENTS OF HATE.
OUR BLADES ARE MADE FROM THE DESIRE TO HARM GOD...
TO *KILL* HIM.

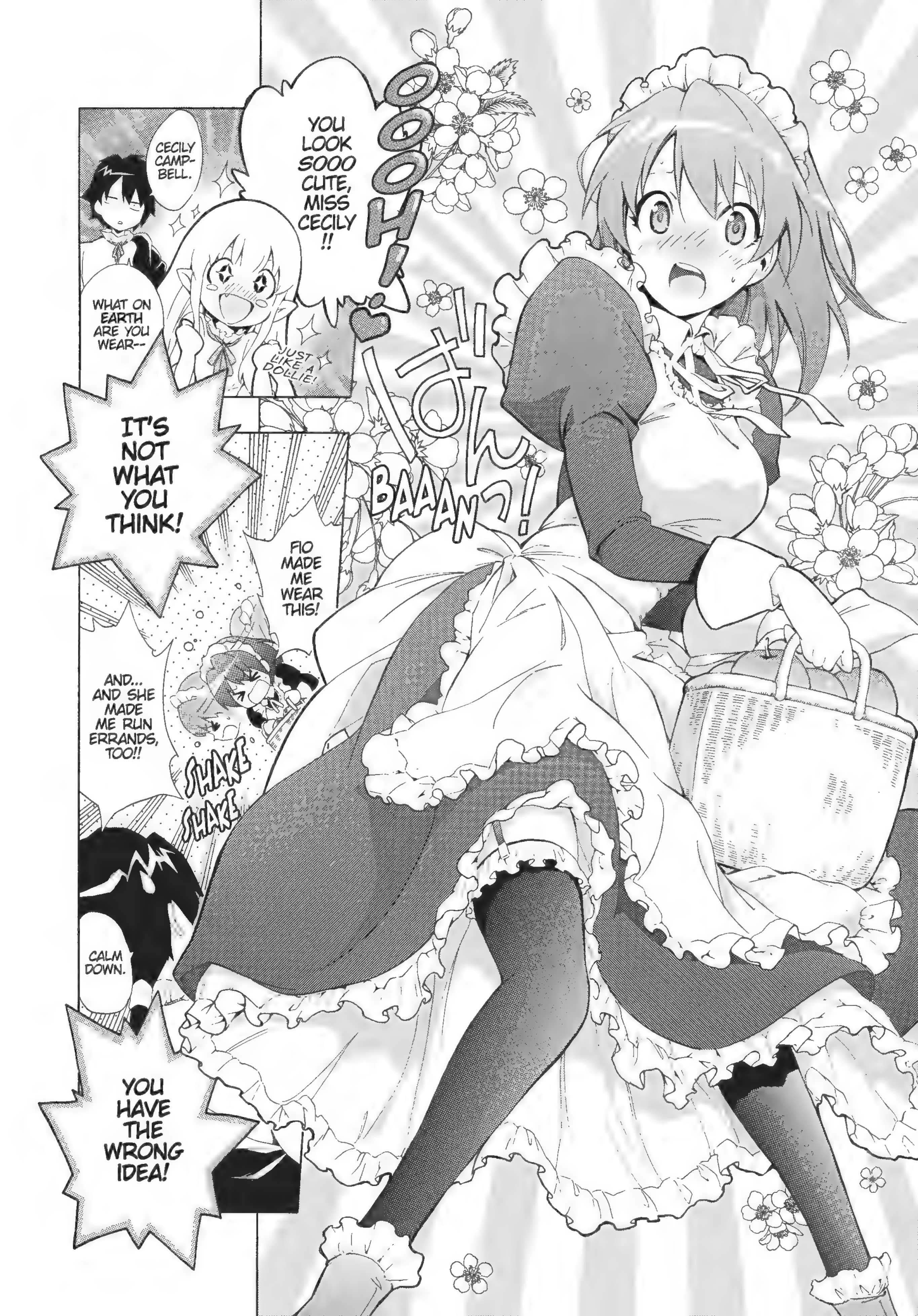

FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN, THE INCANTATION THAT WOULD TURN ME INTO A SWORD WAS RIGHT THERE IN MY MIND.
I HAVE CHANTED IT COUNTLESS TIMES, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT ITS MEANING.
"BRUSH THE SLEEP FROM YOUR EYES.
"REACH FOR THE TRUTH.
"HOLD THE WIND IN THESE HANDS...
"KILL GOD."
NORMAL DEMON BLADES DO NOT SPEAK.
DO NOT WALK.
DO NOT EAT.
BUT EVADNE AND ARIA ARE DIFFERENT.
THE HATE THAT CREATED US WAS DEEPER.
THE STRENGTH OF OUR HUMAN CREATOR'S HATE DETERMINES THE STRENGTH OF THE BLADE.
ONLY HATE WHICH KNOWS **NO BOUNDS**, WHICH WAITS PATIENTLY AND VIGILANTLY FOR THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY...
WILL CREATE A DEMON BLADE THAT BEARS BOTH HUMAN FORM AND NAME.

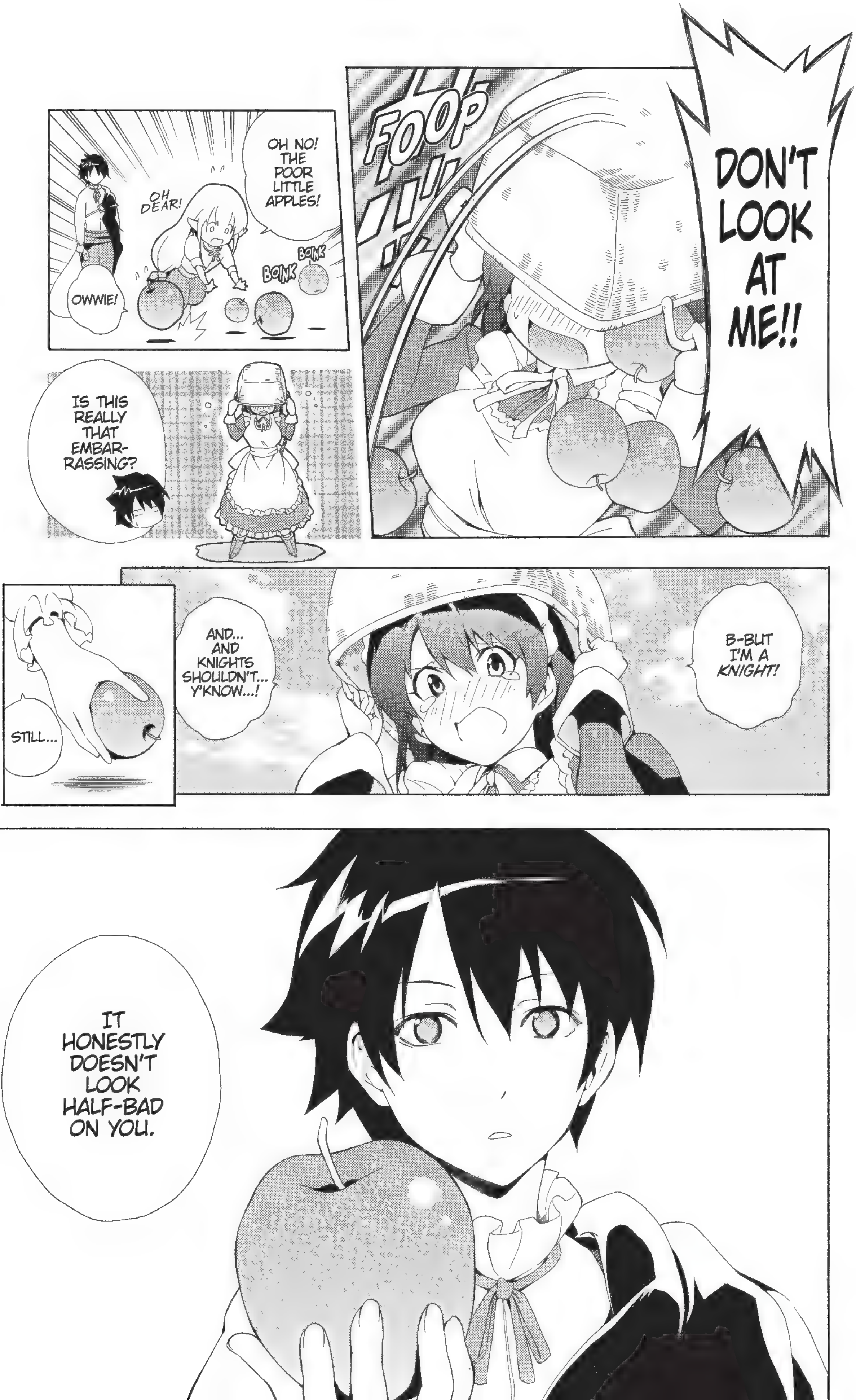

MY BODY...
IS MADE OF HATE?
I'M NOT A HUMAN. I'M NOT AN INHUMAN.
I'M A... A DOLL MADE TO VENT SOMEONE'S RAGE AGAINST A BEING WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT EVEN EXIST.
BUT... IS THAT REALLY ALL I AM...?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
WHAT MEANING IS THERE TO HATING A BEING AS NEBULOUS AS "GOD"?!
ARIA SHOULD KNOW THAT.
OR, AT LEAST, FEEL IT.
THERE IS ONE PLACE OUR BLADES ALWAYS POINT...

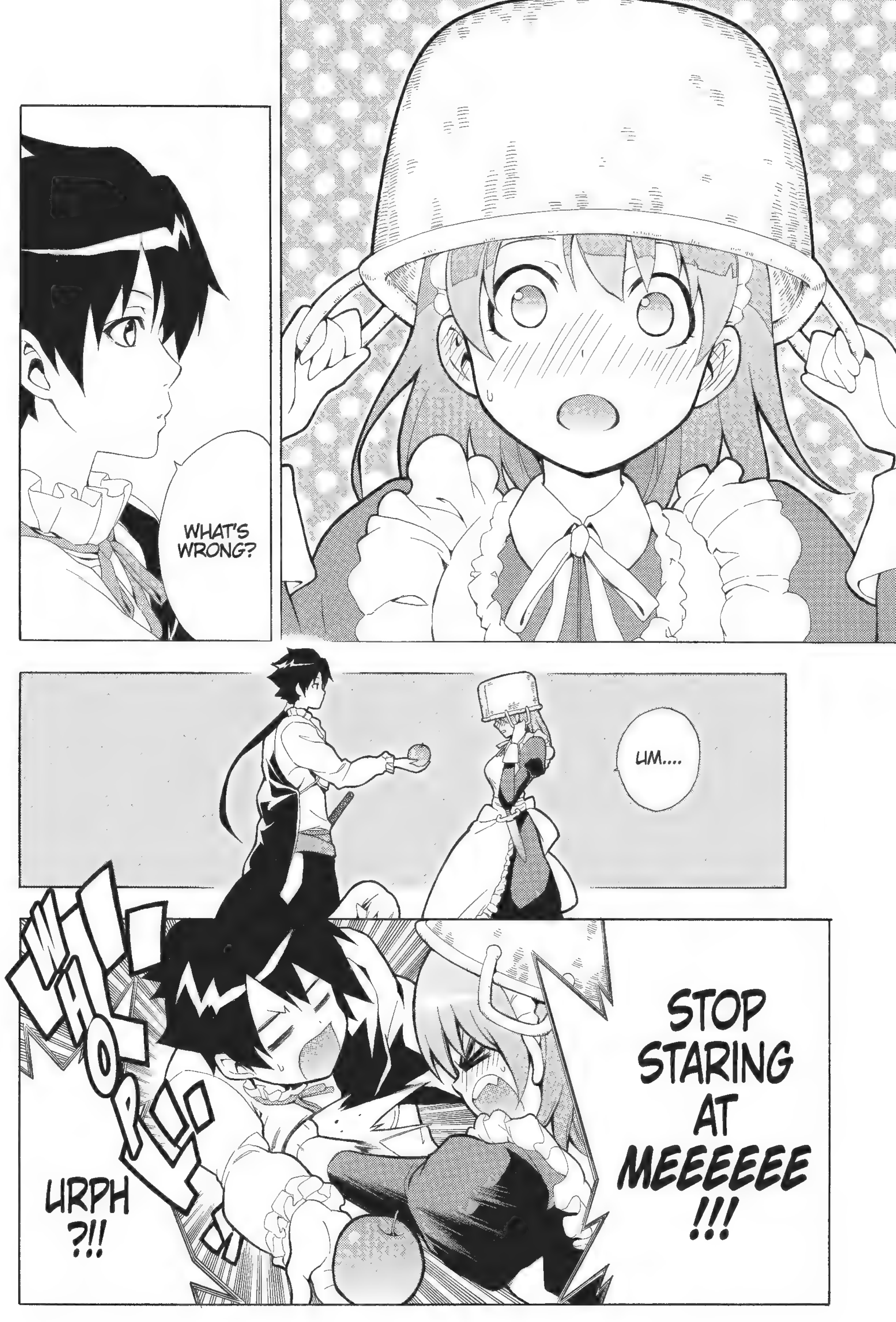


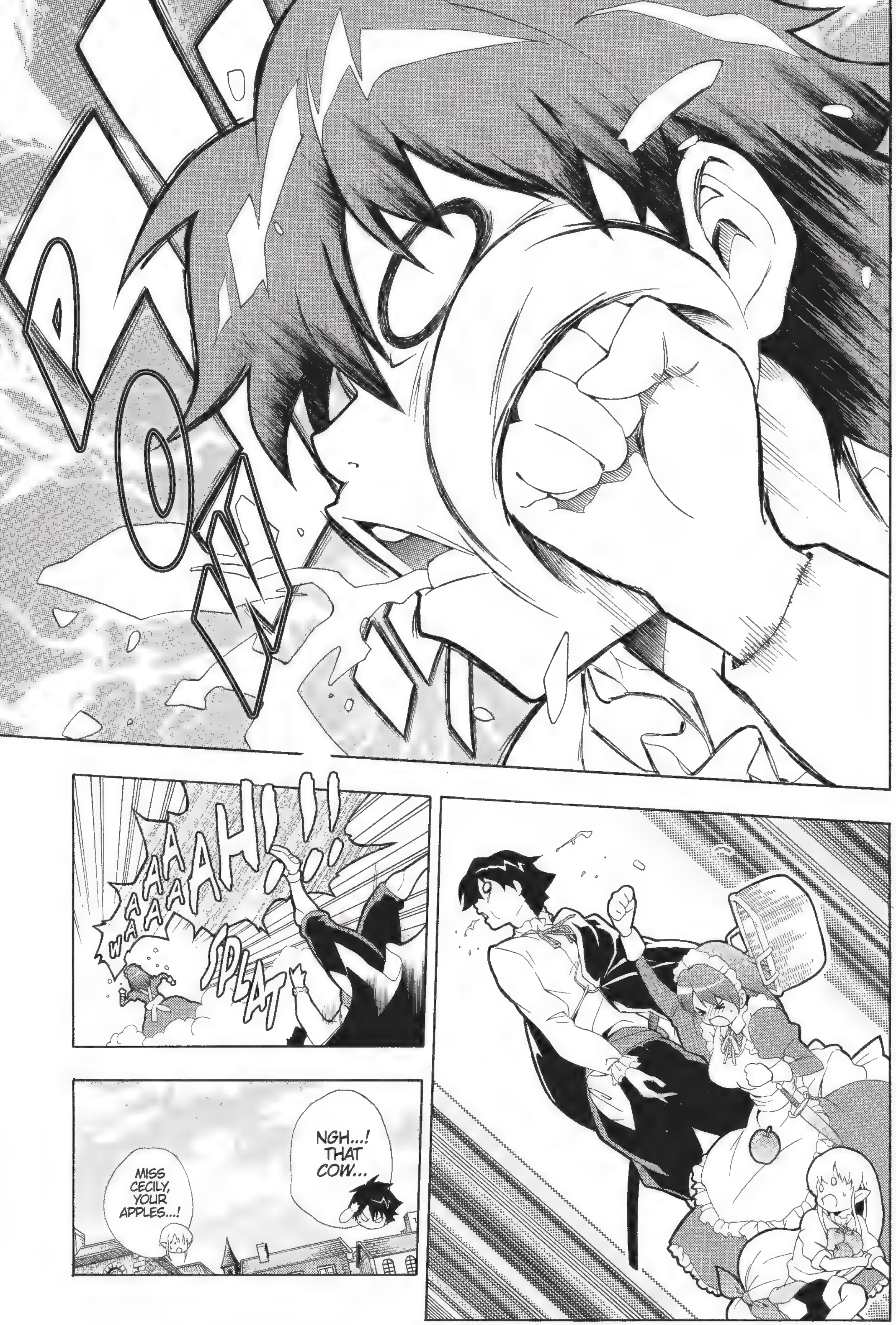

RATTLE
RATTLE
THERE! NOW WE CAN MAKE MORE KITCHEN KNIVES AND FARM TOOLS.
COLLECTING THE SCRAP MATERIAL IS STILL A PAIN.
BUT IT'S *IMPORTANT* AND IT HELPS CUT DOWN OUR COSTS!
I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND...

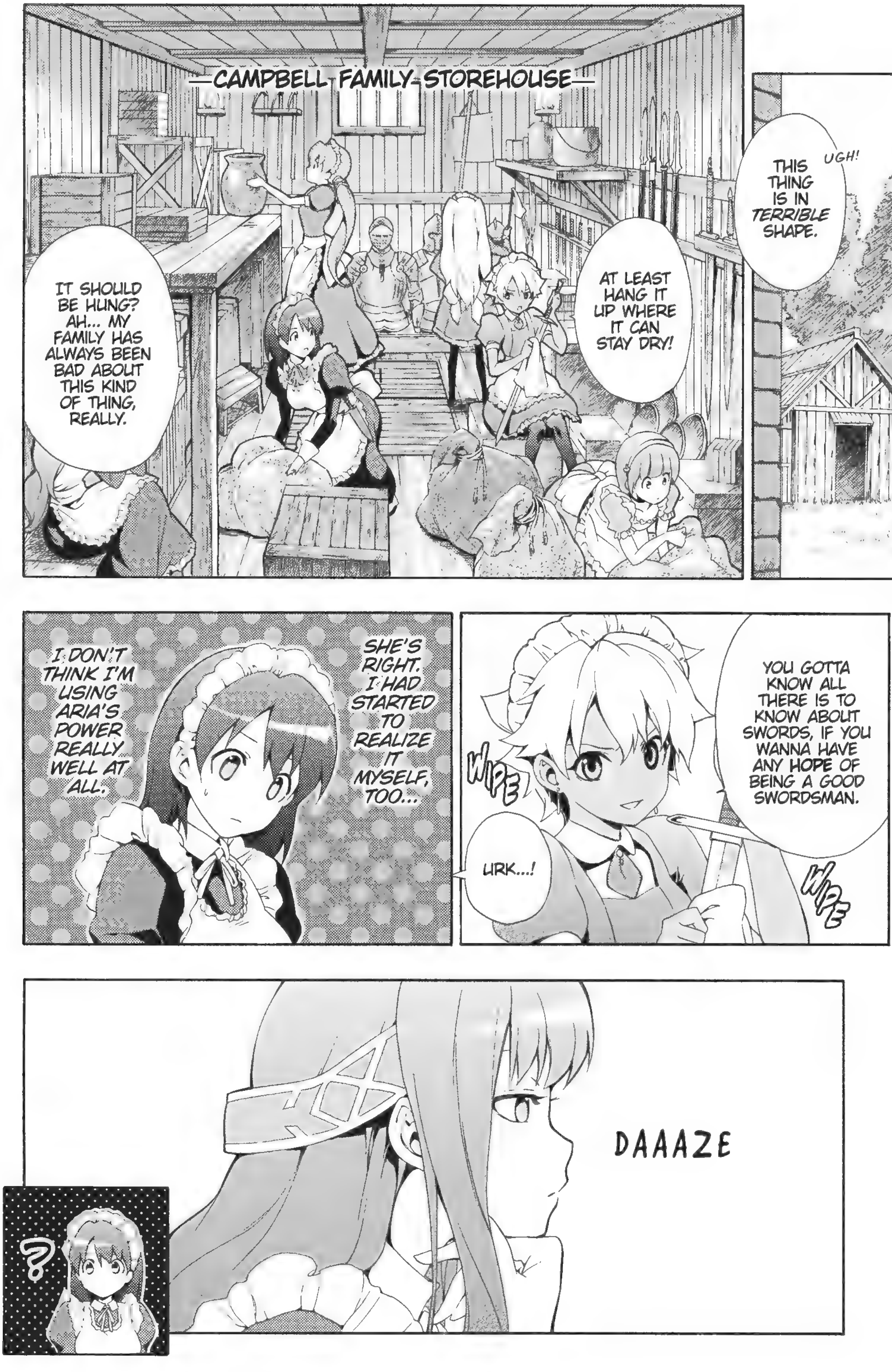

WHY DID I RESCUE HER?
WHY DID I GO OUT OF MY WAY TO HELP SOMEONE WHO IS PRACTICALLY A STRANGER?
I HAVE SOMETHING FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO DO, THAT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ANYTHING ELSE.
SOMETHING I MUST DO, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE.
GAH!! L-L-LUKE?!
JOLT

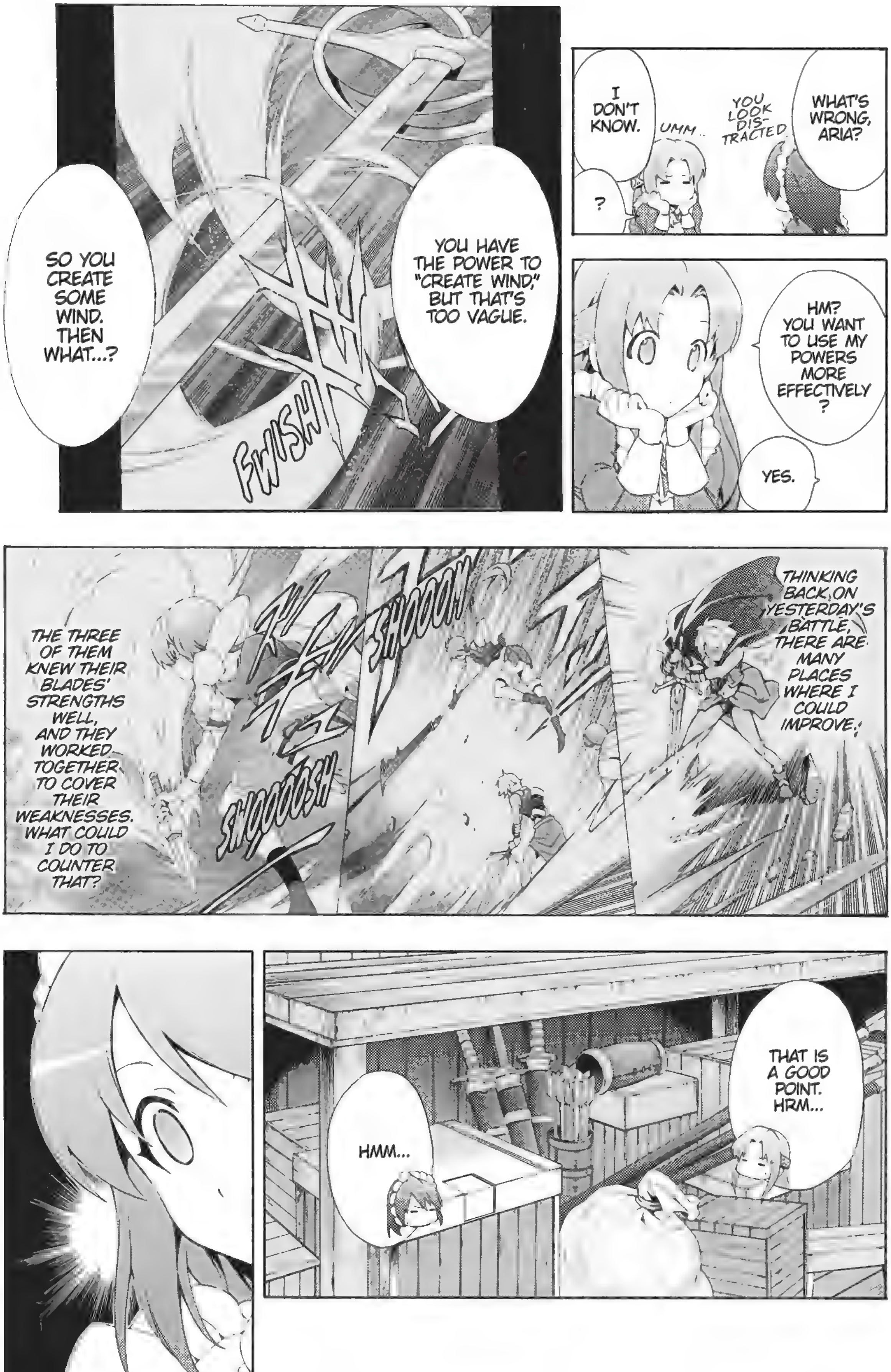

OOOH!
YOU LOOK SOOO CUTE, MISS CECILY!!
CECILY CAMPBELL.
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU WEAR--
JUST LIKE A DOLLIE!
ばーん
BAAANっ!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
FIO MADE ME WEAR THIS!
AND... AND SHE MADE ME RUN ERRANDS, TOO!!
SHAKE SHAKE
CALM DOWN.
YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA!

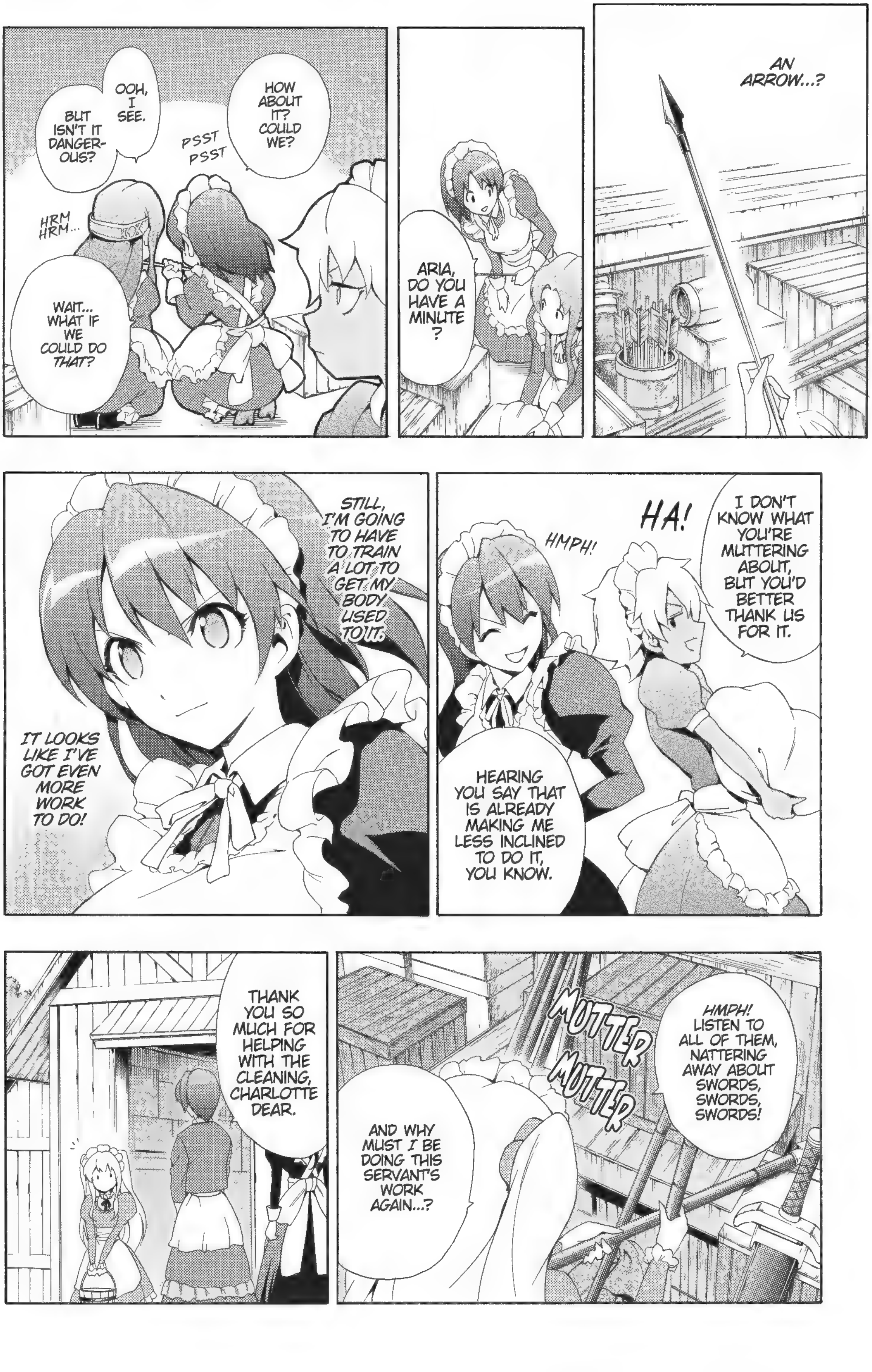

FOOP
DON'T LOOK AT ME!!
OH NO! THE POOR LITTLE APPLES!
OH DEAR!
BOINK
BOINK
OWWIE!
IS THIS REALLY THAT EMBARRASSING?
B-BUT I'M A KNIGHT!
AND... AND KNIGHTS SHOULDN'T... Y'KNOW...!
STILL...
IT HONESTLY DOESN'T LOOK HALF-BAD ON YOU.

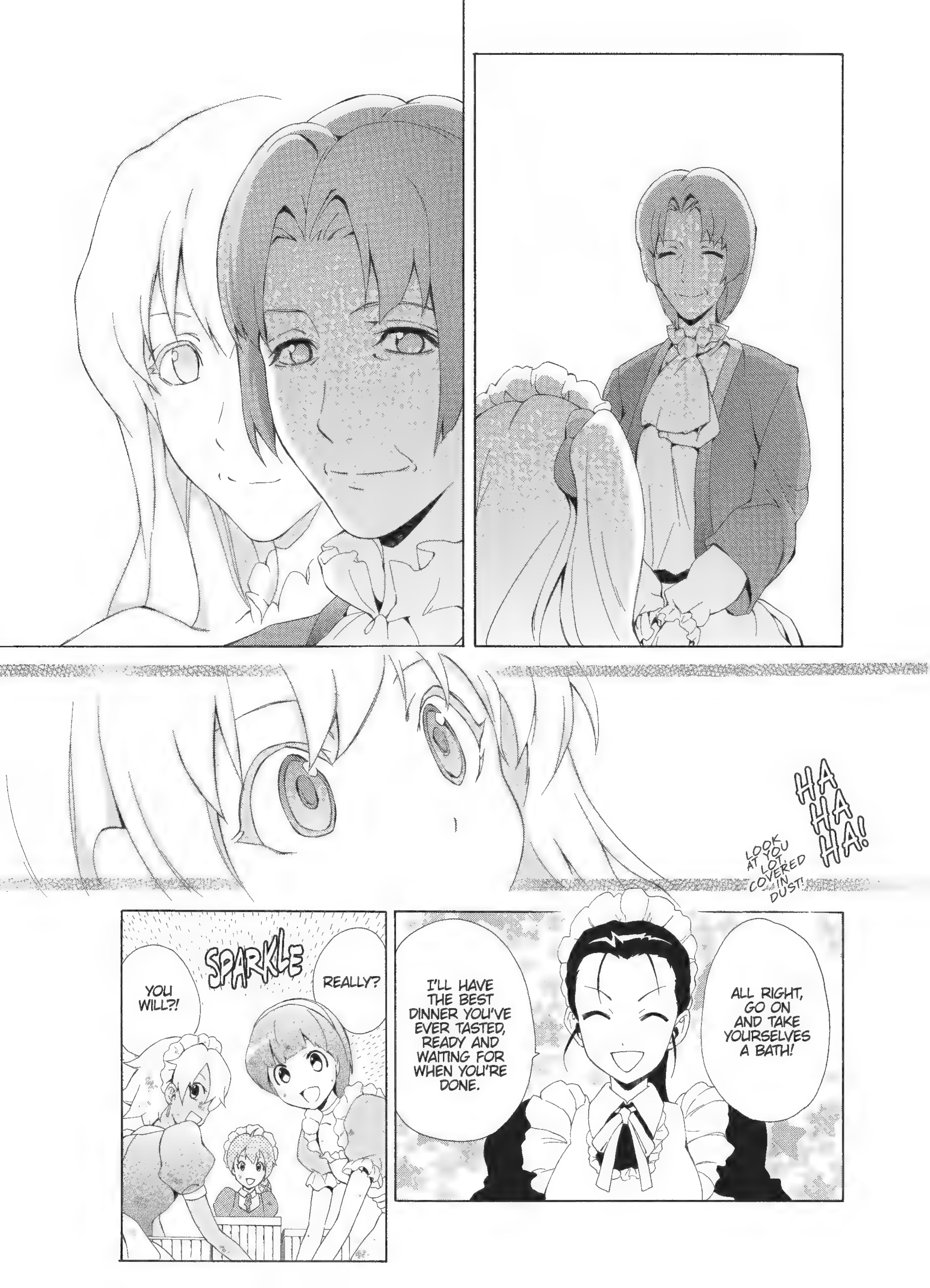

WHAT'S WRONG?
UM....
STOP STARING AT MEEEEEE!!!
WHOP!!!
URPH?!!

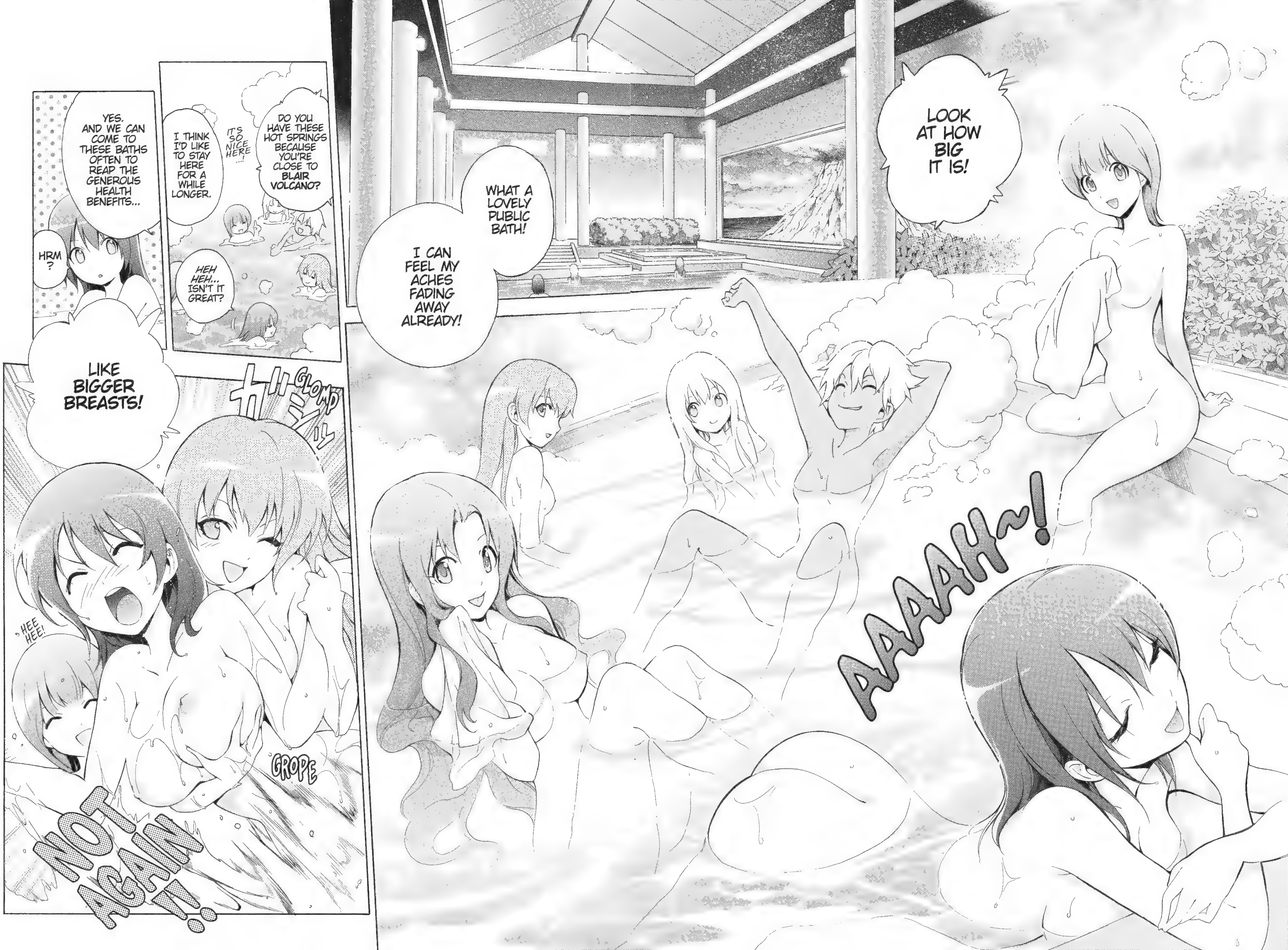

POW
WAAAAAAAH!!!!
SPLAT
NGH...! THAT COW...
MISS CECILY, YOUR APPLES...!

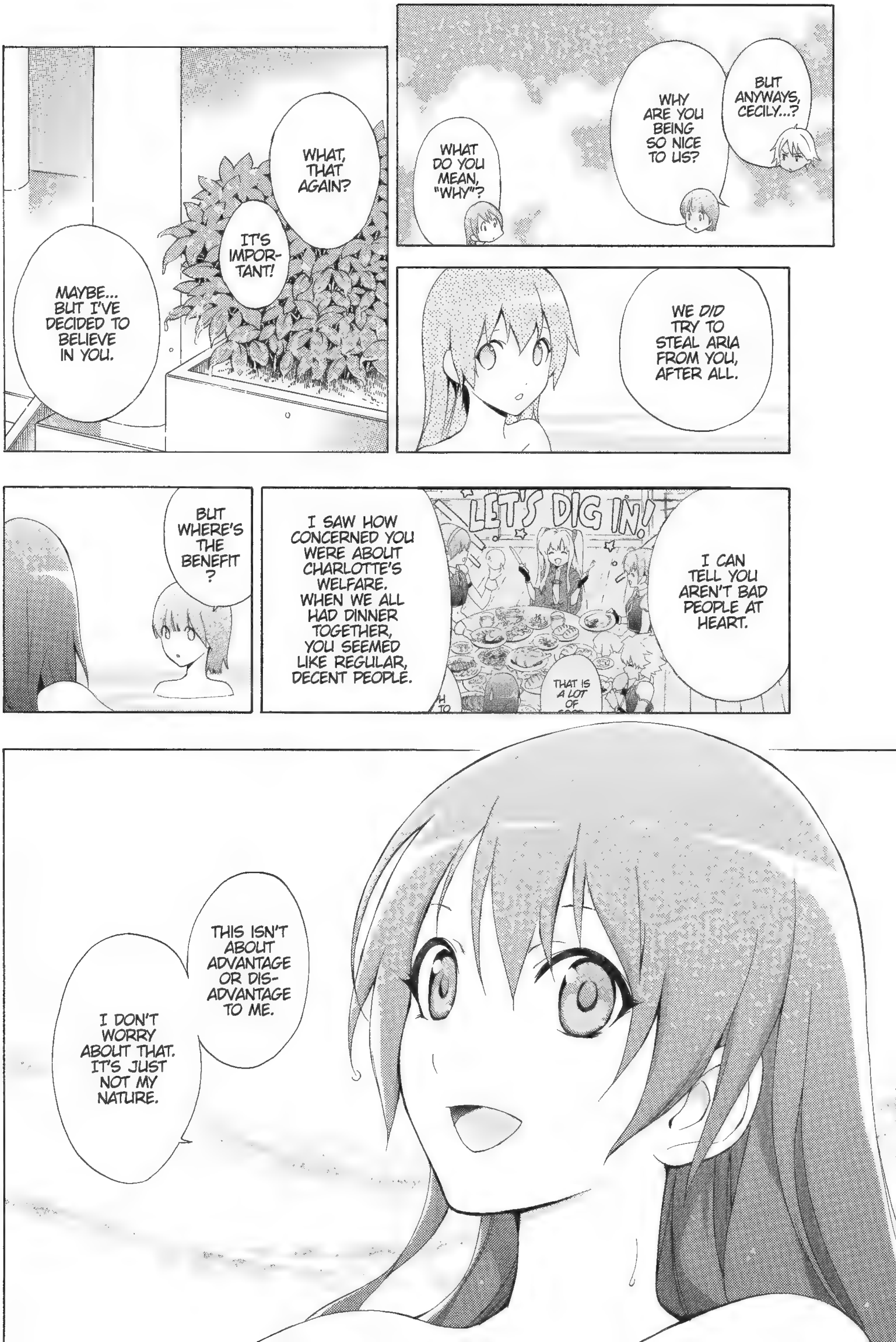

UGH!
THIS THING IS IN *TERRIBLE* SHAPE.
—CAMPBELL FAMILY STOREHOUSE—
AT LEAST HANG IT UP WHERE IT CAN STAY DRY!
IT SHOULD BE HUNG? AH... MY FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN BAD ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING, REALLY.
YOU GOTTA KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT SWORDS, IF YOU WANNA HAVE ANY **HOPE** OF BEING A GOOD SWORDSMAN.
WIPE
WIPE
URK...!
SHE'S RIGHT. I HAD STARTED TO REALIZE IT MYSELF, TOO...
I DON'T THINK I'M USING ARIA'S POWER REALLY WELL AT ALL.
DAAAZE
?

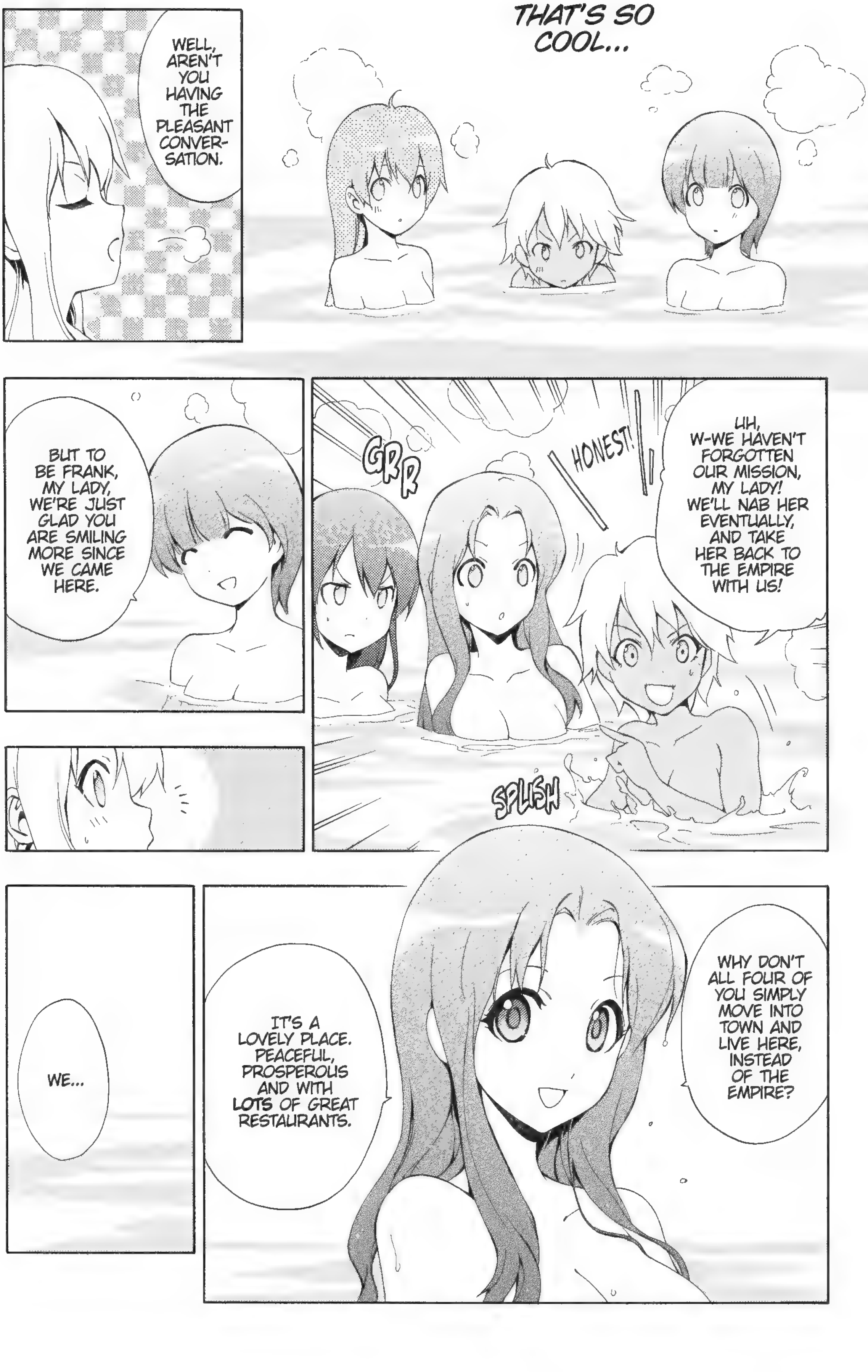

WHAT'S WRONG, ARIA?
YOU LOOK DISTRACTED
UMM..
I DON'T KNOW.
?
HM? YOU WANT TO USE MY POWERS MORE EFFECTIVELY?
YES.
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO "CREATE WIND," BUT THAT'S TOO VAGUE.
SO YOU CREATE SOME WIND. THEN WHAT...?
FWISH
THINKING BACK ON YESTERDAY'S BATTLE, THERE ARE MANY PLACES WHERE I COULD IMPROVE.
SHOOOOH
SHOOOOSH
THE THREE OF THEM KNEW THEIR BLADES' STRENGTHS WELL, AND THEY WORKED TOGETHER TO COVER THEIR WEAKNESSES. WHAT COULD I DO TO COUNTER THAT?
THAT IS A GOOD POINT. HRM...
HMM...

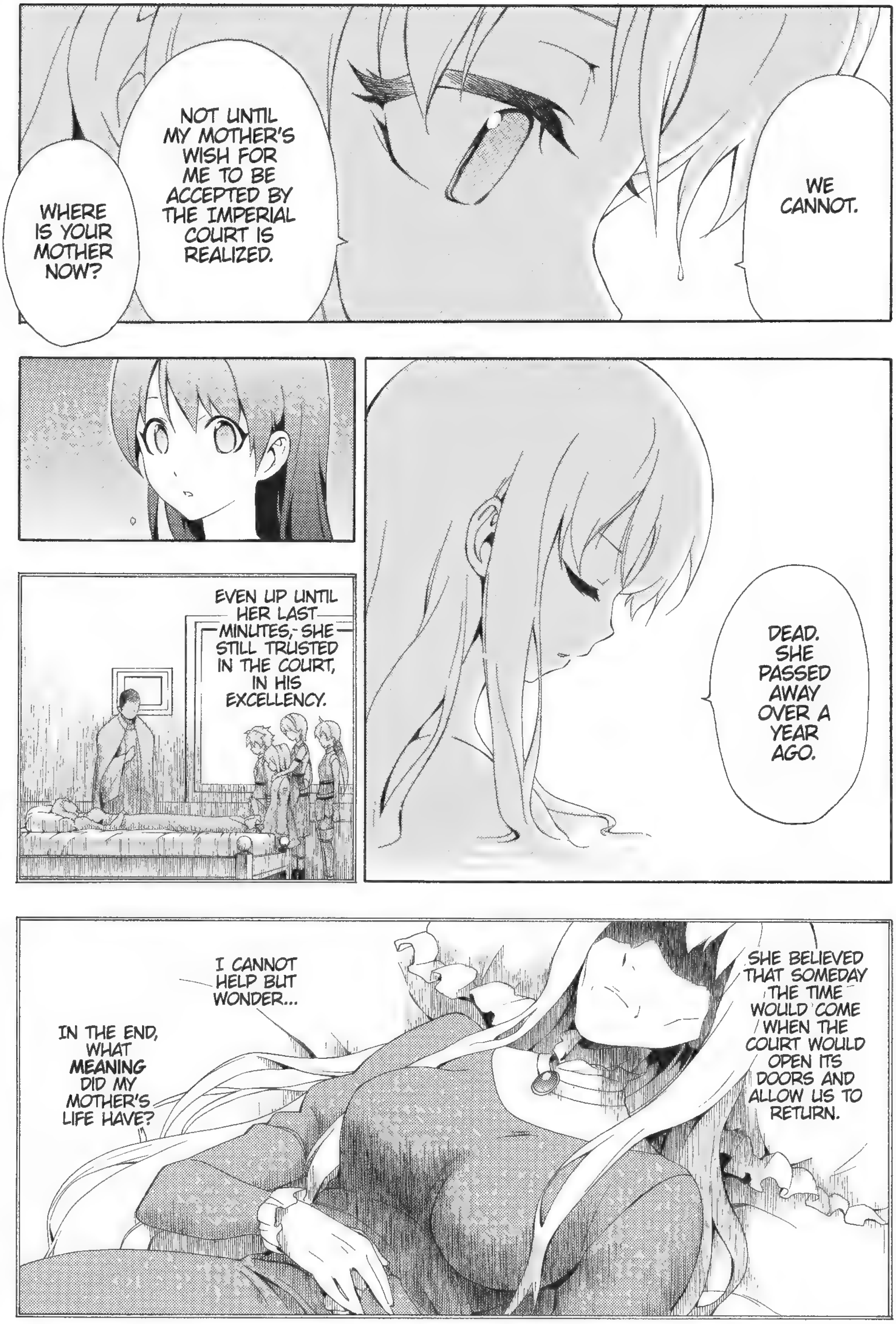

AN ARROW...?
ARIA, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
HOW ABOUT IT? COULD WE?
PSSST PSSST
OOH, I SEE.
BUT ISN'T IT DANGEROUS?
HRM HRM...
WAIT... WHAT IF WE COULD DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MUTTERING ABOUT, BUT YOU'D BETTER THANK US FOR IT.
HA!
HMPH!
HEARING YOU SAY THAT IS ALREADY MAKING ME LESS INCLINED TO DO IT, YOU KNOW.
STILL, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TRAIN A LOT TO GET MY BODY USED TO IT.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT EVEN MORE WORK TO DO!
HMPH! LISTEN TO ALL OF THEM, NATTERING AWAY ABOUT SWORDS, SWORDS, SWORDS!
MUTTER MUTTER
AND WHY MUST I BE DOING THIS SERVANT'S WORK AGAIN...?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING WITH THE CLEANING, CHARLOTTE DEAR.

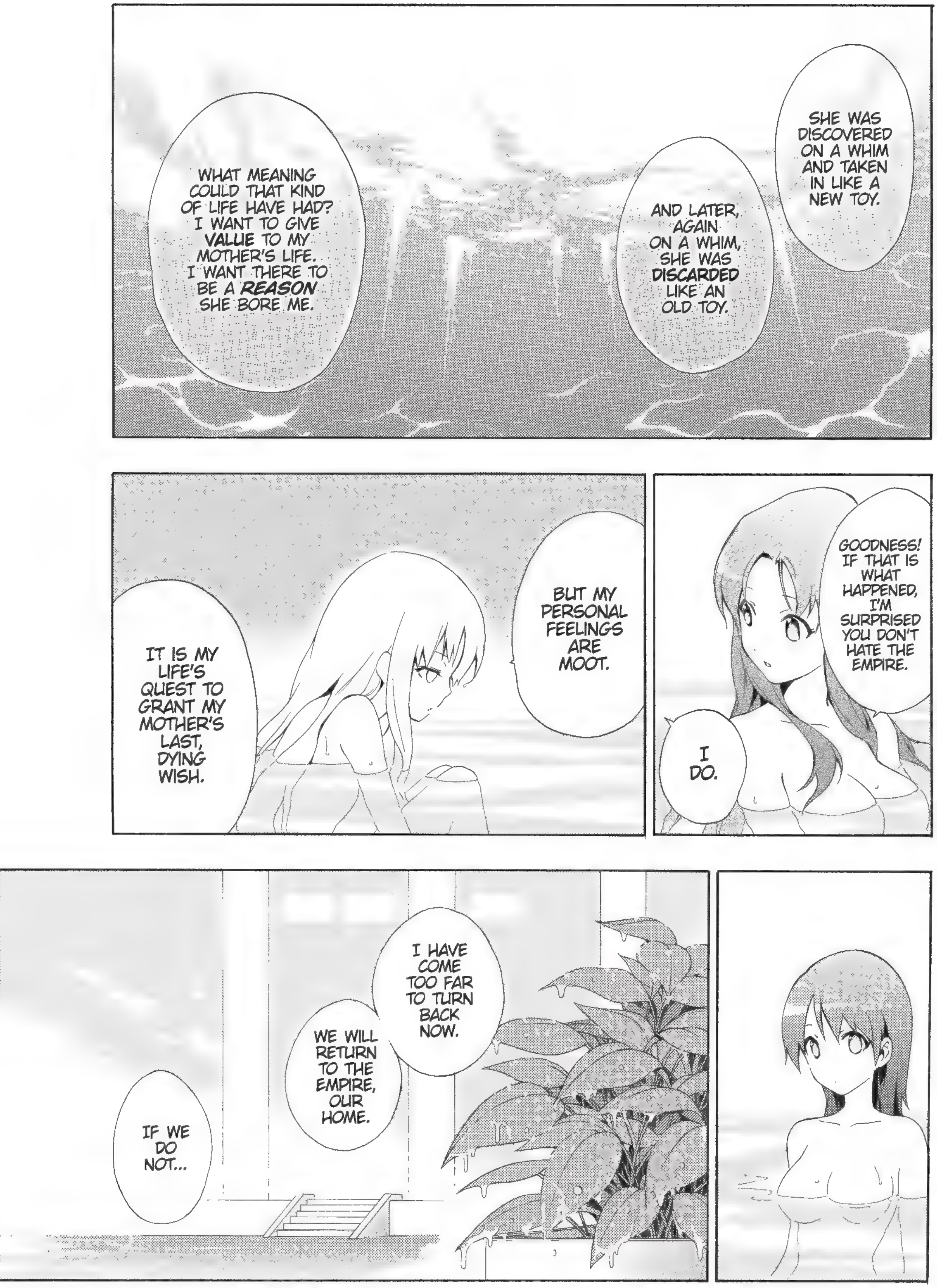

HA HA HA!
LOOK AT YOU LOT COVERED IN DUST!
ALL RIGHT, GO ON AND TAKE YOURSELVES A BATH!
I'LL HAVE THE BEST DINNER YOU'VE EVER TASTED, READY AND WAITING FOR WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
REALLY?
SPARKLE
YOU WILL?!

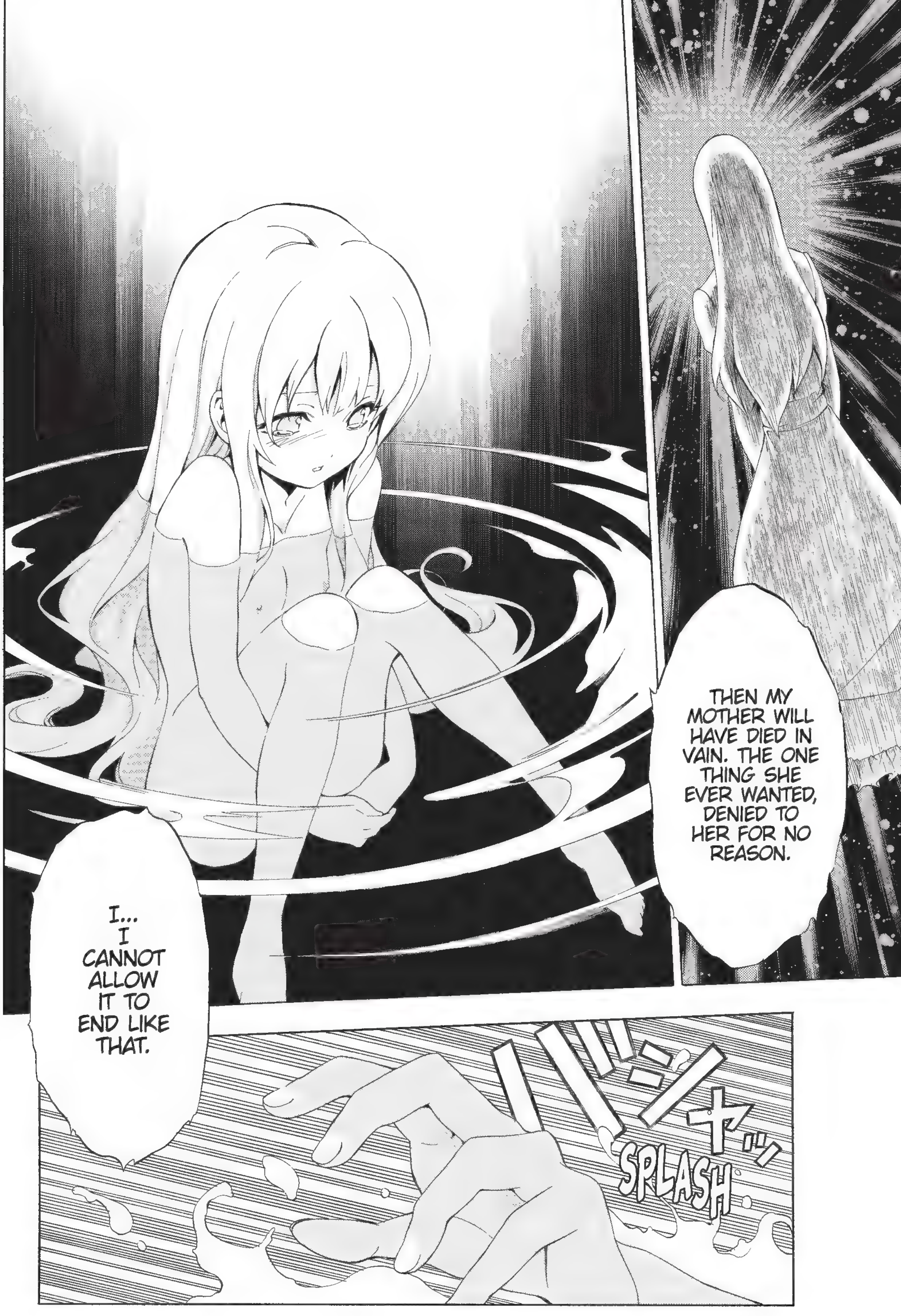

LOOK AT HOW BIG IT IS!
WHAT A LOVELY PUBLIC BATH!
I CAN FEEL MY ACHES FADING AWAY ALREADY!
AAAAH~!
DO YOU HAVE THESE HOT SPRINGS BECAUSE YOU'RE CLOSE TO BLAIR VOLCANO?
IT'S SO NICE HERE...!
I THINK I'D LIKE TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE LONGER.
HEH HEH... ISN'T IT GREAT?
YES. AND WE CAN COME TO THESE BATHS OFTEN TO REAP THE GENEROUS HEALTH BENEFITS...
HRM?
LIKE BIGGER BREASTS!
GLOMP
HEE HEE!
GROPE
NOT AGAIN!!!

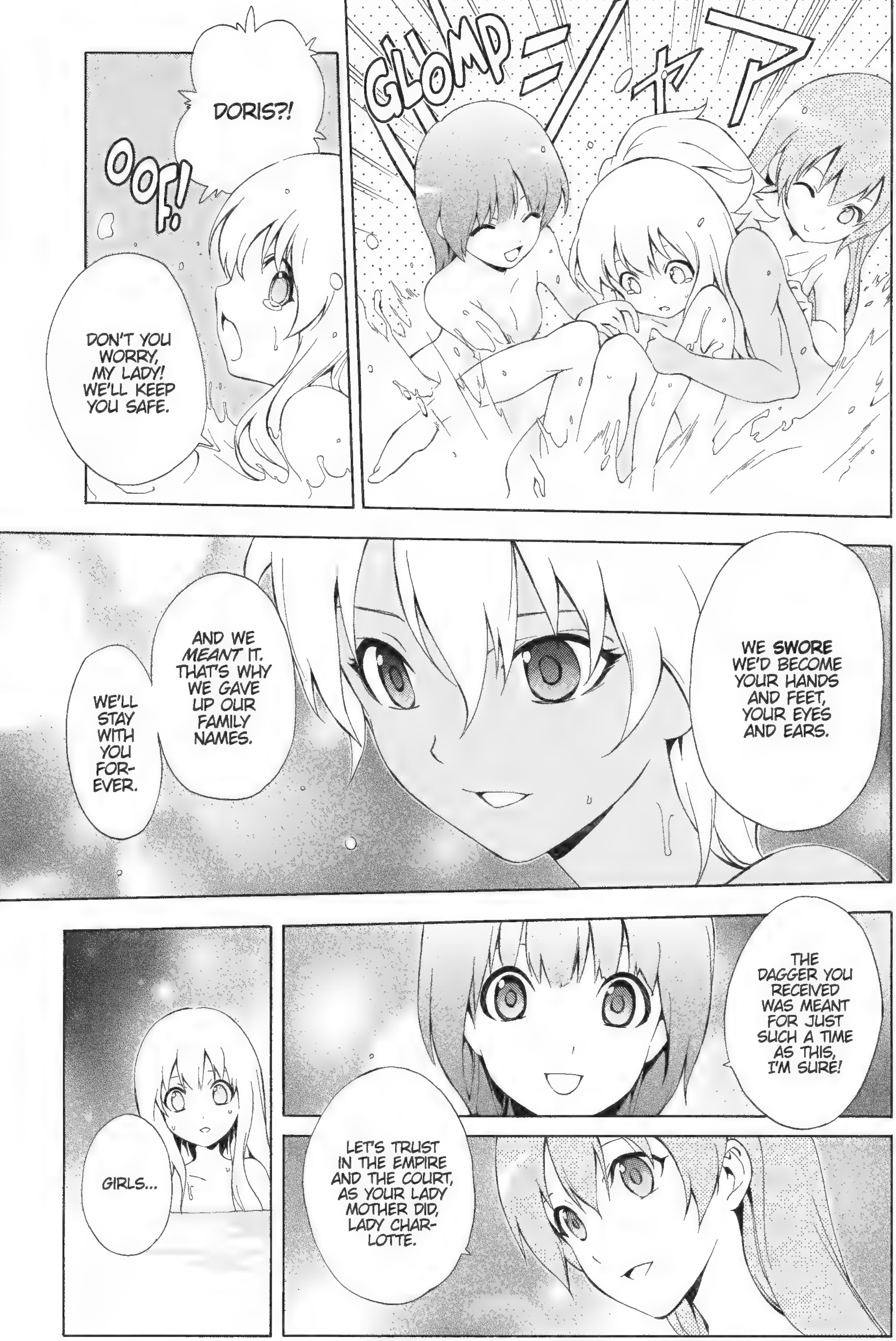

BUT ANYWAYS, CECILY...?
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO NICE TO US?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY"?
WE *DID* TRY TO STEAL ARIA FROM YOU, AFTER ALL.
WHAT, THAT AGAIN?
IT'S IMPORTANT!
MAYBE... BUT I'VE DECIDED TO BELIEVE IN YOU.
I CAN TELL YOU AREN'T BAD PEOPLE AT HEART.
LET'S DIG IN!
THAT IS *A LOT* OF
I SAW HOW CONCERNED YOU WERE ABOUT CHARLOTTE'S WELFARE. WHEN WE ALL HAD DINNER TOGETHER, YOU SEEMED LIKE REGULAR, DECENT PEOPLE.
BUT WHERE'S THE BENEFIT?
THIS ISN'T ABOUT ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE TO ME.
I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. IT'S JUST NOT MY NATURE.

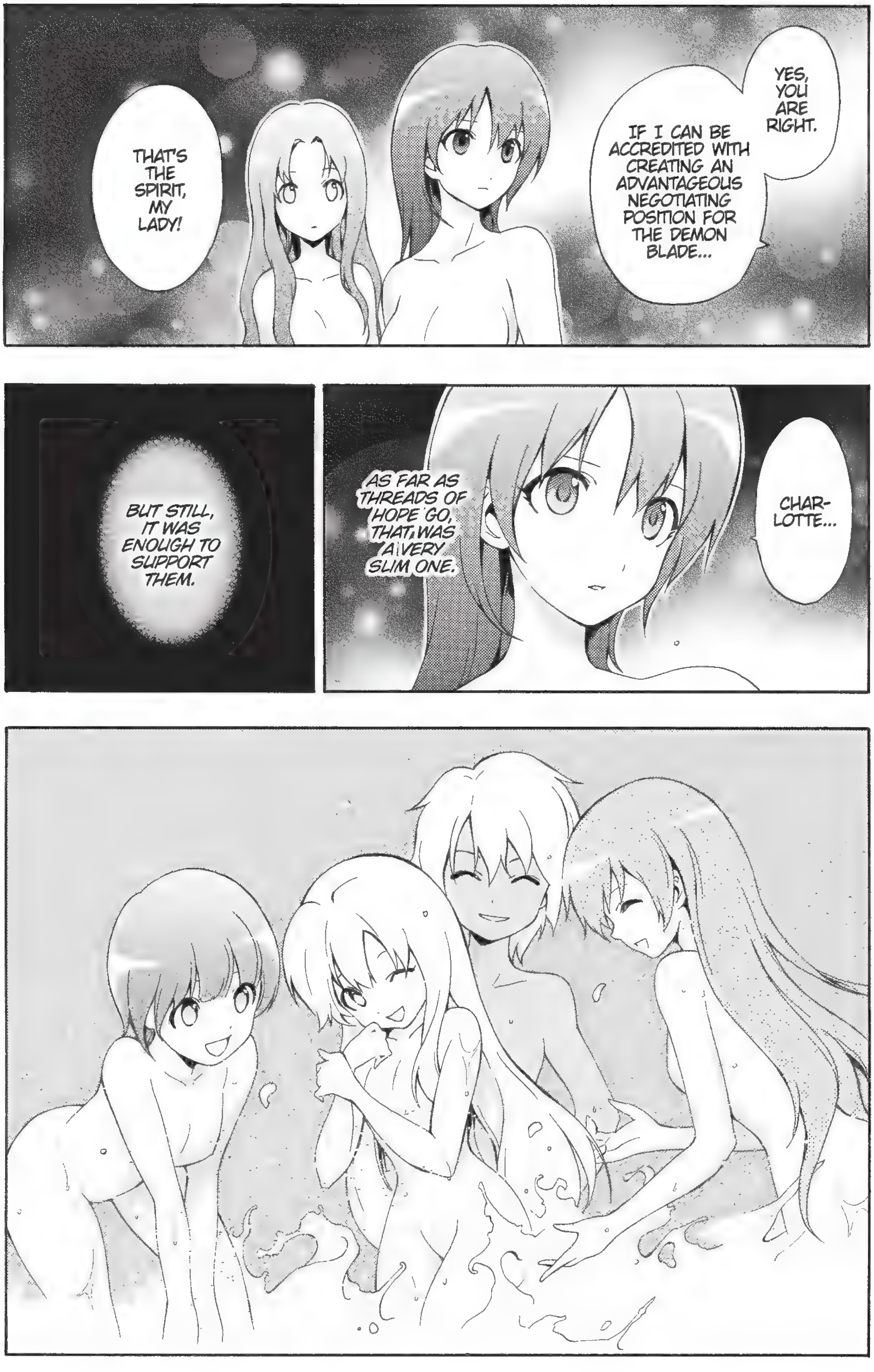

THAT'S SO COOL...
WELL, AREN'T YOU HAVING THE PLEASANT CONVERSATION.
UH, W-WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN OUR MISSION, MY LADY! WE'LL NAB HER EVENTUALLY, AND TAKE HER BACK TO THE EMPIRE WITH US!
HONEST!
GRR
SPLISH
BUT TO BE FRANK, MY LADY, WE'RE JUST GLAD YOU ARE SMILING MORE SINCE WE CAME HERE.
WHY DON'T ALL FOUR OF YOU SIMPLY MOVE INTO TOWN AND LIVE HERE, INSTEAD OF THE EMPIRE?
IT'S A LOVELY PLACE. PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS AND WITH LOTS OF GREAT RESTAURANTS.
WE...

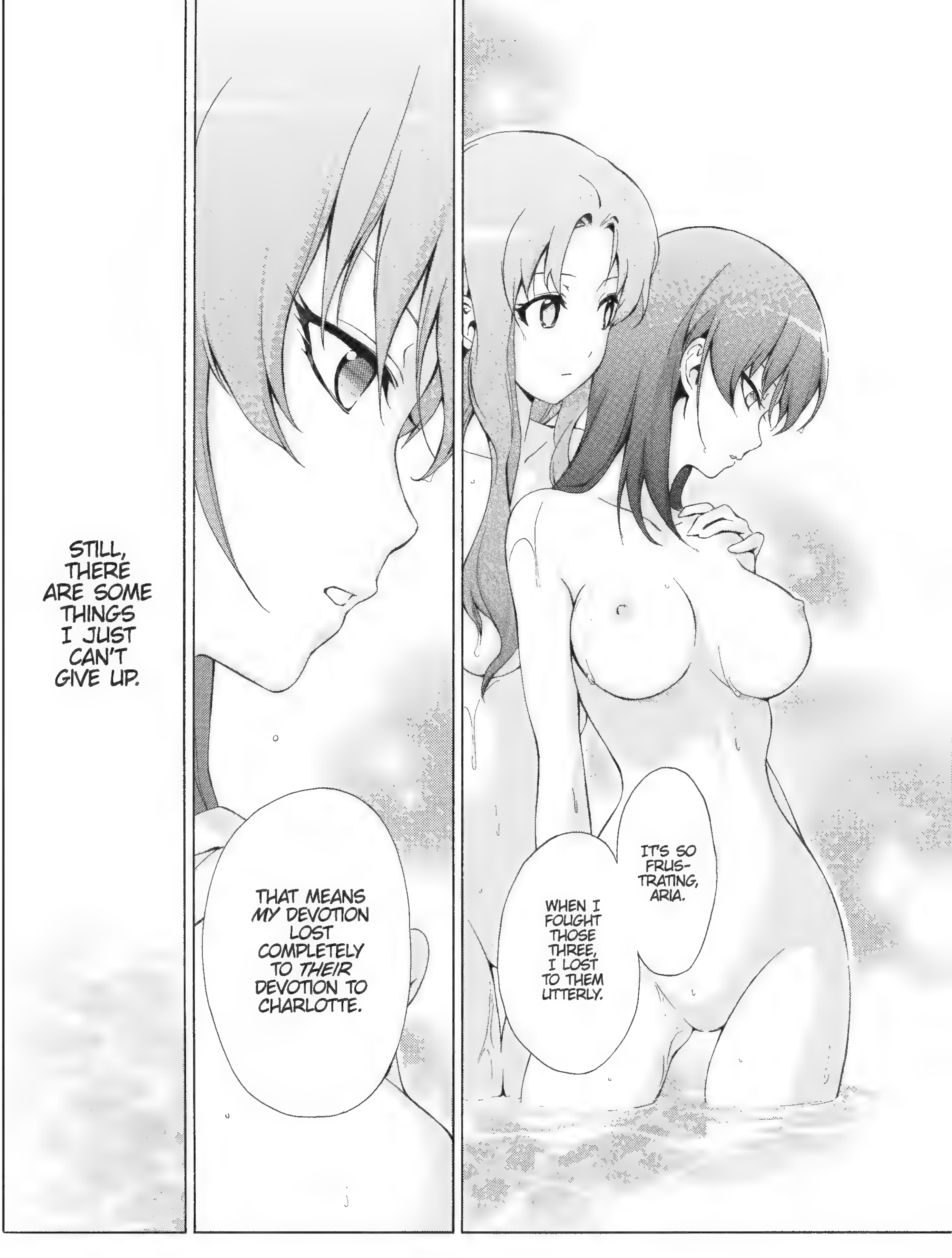

WE CANNOT.
NOT UNTIL MY MOTHER'S WISH FOR ME TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE IMPERIAL COURT IS REALIZED.
WHERE IS YOUR MOTHER NOW?
DEAD. SHE PASSED AWAY OVER A YEAR AGO.
EVEN UP UNTIL HER LAST MINUTES, SHE STILL TRUSTED IN THE COURT, IN HIS EXCELLENCY.
SHE BELIEVED THAT SOMEDAY THE TIME WOULD COME WHEN THE COURT WOULD OPEN ITS DOORS AND ALLOW US TO RETURN.
I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER...
IN THE END, WHAT **MEANING** DID MY MOTHER'S LIFE HAVE?

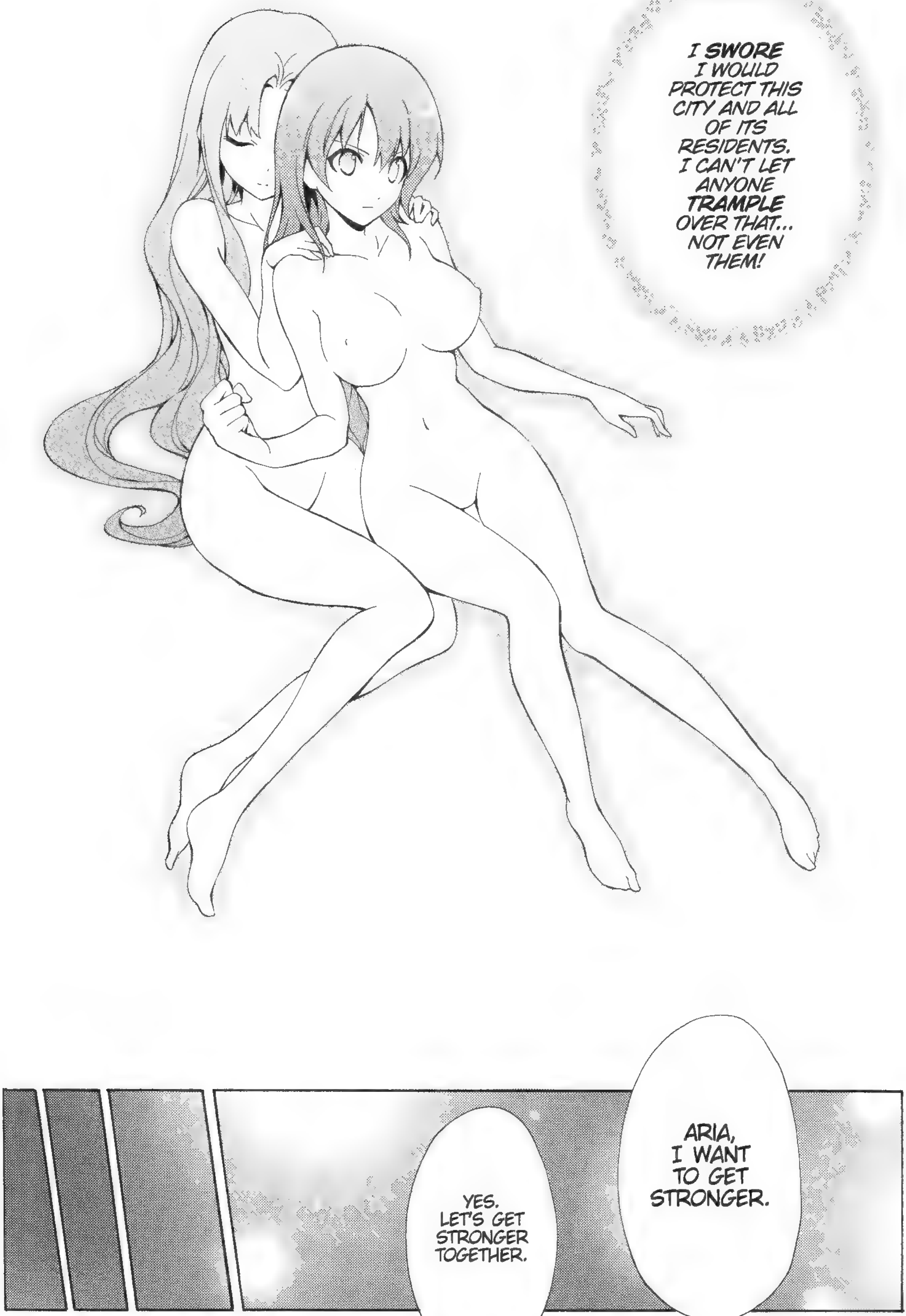

SHE WAS DISCOVERED ON A WHIM AND TAKEN IN LIKE A NEW TOY.
AND LATER, AGAIN ON A WHIM, SHE WAS **DISCARDED** LIKE AN OLD TOY.
WHAT MEANING COULD THAT KIND OF LIFE HAVE HAD? I WANT TO GIVE **VALUE** TO MY MOTHER'S LIFE. I WANT THERE TO BE A ***REASON*** SHE BORE ME.
GOODNESS! IF THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED, I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T HATE THE EMPIRE.
I DO.
BUT MY PERSONAL FEELINGS ARE MOOT.
IT IS MY LIFE'S QUEST TO GRANT MY MOTHER'S LAST, DYING WISH.
I HAVE COME TOO FAR TO TURN BACK NOW.
WE WILL RETURN TO THE EMPIRE, OUR HOME.
IF WE DO NOT...

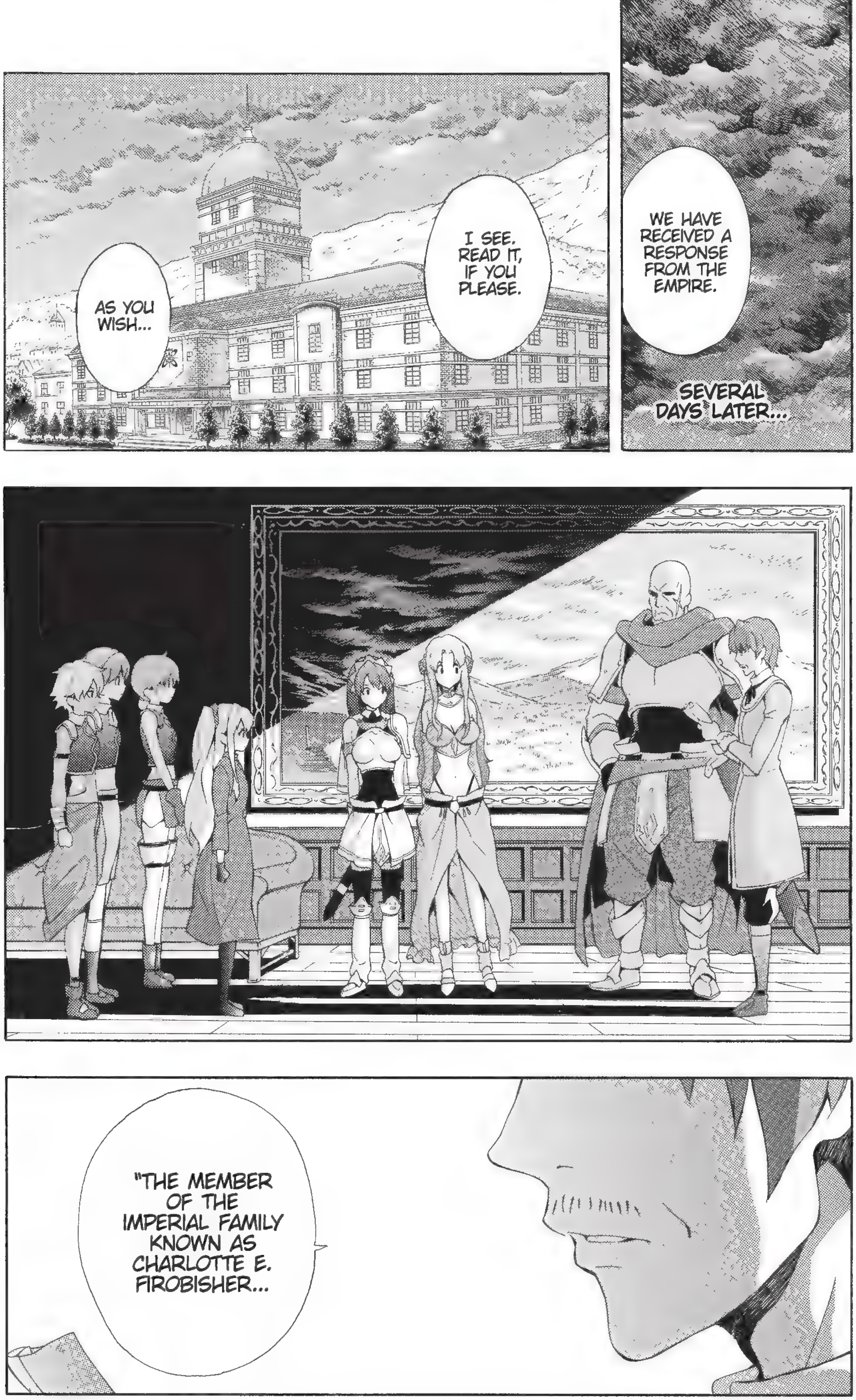

THEN MY MOTHER WILL HAVE DIED IN VAIN. THE ONE THING SHE EVER WANTED, DENIED TO HER FOR NO REASON.
I... I CANNOT ALLOW IT TO END LIKE THAT.
バシャッ
SPLASH

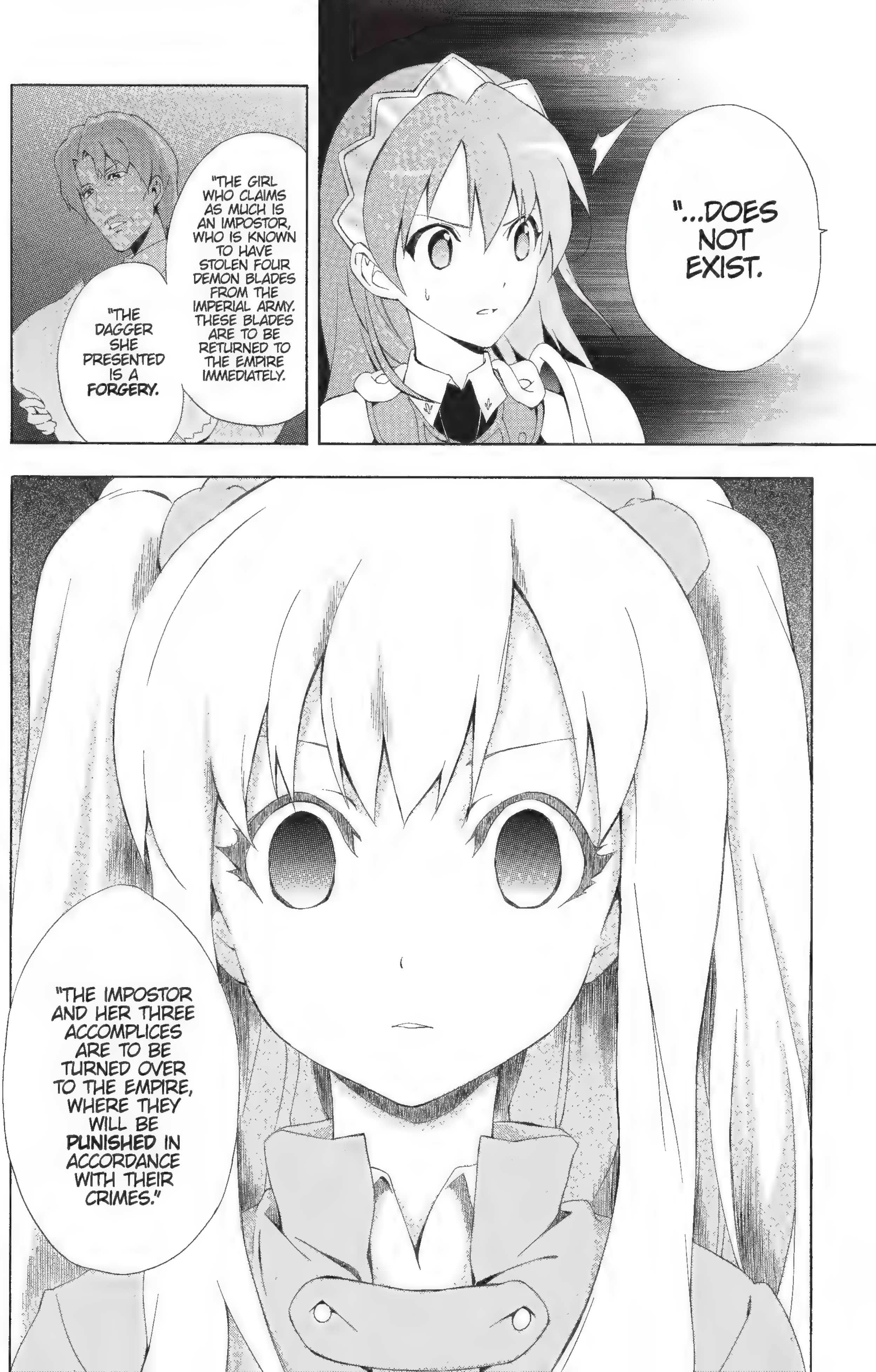

GLOMP
DORIS?!
OOF!
DON'T YOU WORRY, MY LADY! WE'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.
WE **SWORE** WE'D BECOME YOUR HANDS AND FEET, YOUR EYES AND EARS.
AND WE *MEANT* IT. THAT'S WHY WE GAVE UP OUR FAMILY NAMES.
WE'LL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER.
THE DAGGER YOU RECEIVED WAS MEANT FOR JUST SUCH A TIME AS THIS, I'M SURE!
LET'S TRUST IN THE EMPIRE AND THE COURT, AS YOUR LADY MOTHER DID, LADY CHARLOTTE.
GIRLS...


YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.
IF I CAN BE ACCREDITED WITH CREATING AN ADVANTAGEOUS NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR THE DEMON BLADE...
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, MY LADY!
CHARLOTTE...
AS FAR AS THREADS OF HOPE GO, THAT WAS A VERY SLIM ONE.
BUT STILL, IT WAS ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THEM.


IT'S SO FRUSTRATING, ARIA.
WHEN I FOUGHT THOSE THREE, I LOST TO THEM UTTERLY.
THAT MEANS *MY* DEVOTION LOST COMPLETELY TO *THEIR* DEVOTION TO CHARLOTTE.
STILL, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I JUST CAN'T GIVE UP.


I **SWORE** I WOULD PROTECT THIS CITY AND ALL OF ITS RESIDENTS. I CAN'T LET ANYONE **TRAMPLE** OVER THAT... NOT EVEN THEM!
ARIA, I WANT TO GET STRONGER.
YES. LET'S GET STRONGER TOGETHER.

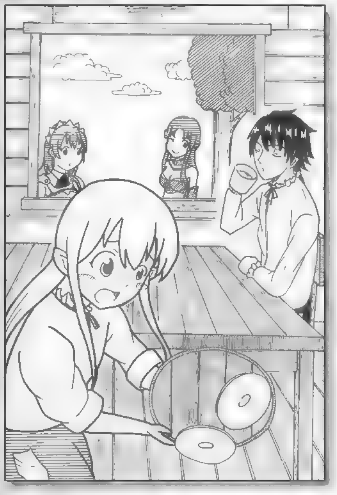

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
WE HAVE RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE EMPIRE.
I SEE. READ IT, IF YOU PLEASE.
AS YOU WISH...
"THE MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY KNOWN AS CHARLOTTE E. FIROBISHER...


"...DOES NOT EXIST.
"THE GIRL WHO CLAIMS AS MUCH IS AN IMPOSTOR, WHO IS KNOWN TO HAVE STOLEN FOUR DEMON BLADES FROM THE IMPERIAL ARMY. THESE BLADES ARE TO BE RETURNED TO THE EMPIRE IMMEDIATELY.
"THE DAGGER SHE PRESENTED IS A **FORGERY.**
"THE IMPOSTOR AND HER THREE ACCOMPLICES ARE TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE EMPIRE, WHERE THEY WILL BE **PUNISHED** IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR CRIMES."

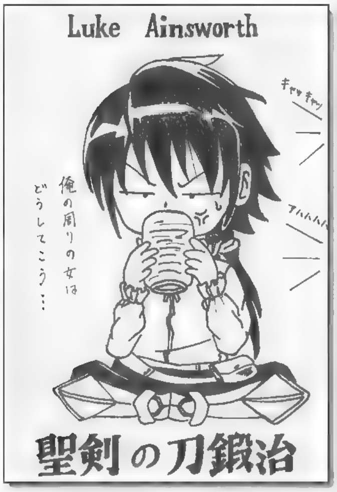
Doris

Some of these aren't half-bad...

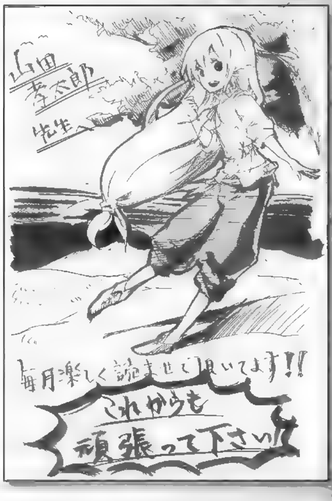
アトリエ 工房リーザ atelier Liza BRANCH OFFICE II



↑ Tokushima, Dona-dona

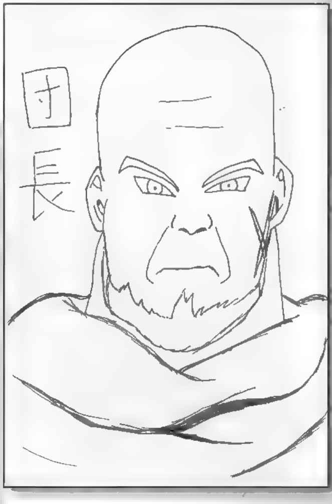

Luke Ainsworth
キャッキャッ
アハハハハ
俺の周りの女はどうしてこう…
聖剣の刀鍛冶

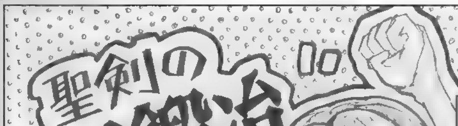
↑ Aichi, Nagu-san

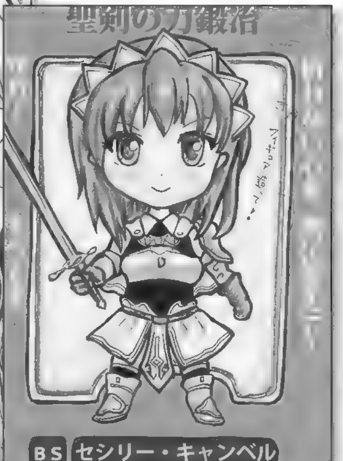

山田孝太郎先生へ
毎月楽しく読ませて頂いてます!!
これからも頑張って下さい!

↑ Chiba, Takeda Naoki

Aichi, Hitoshi →

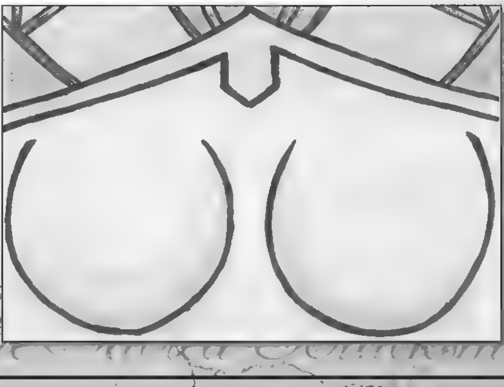





聖剣の刀鍛冶
フィギュア欲しいで!
BS セシリー・キャンベル

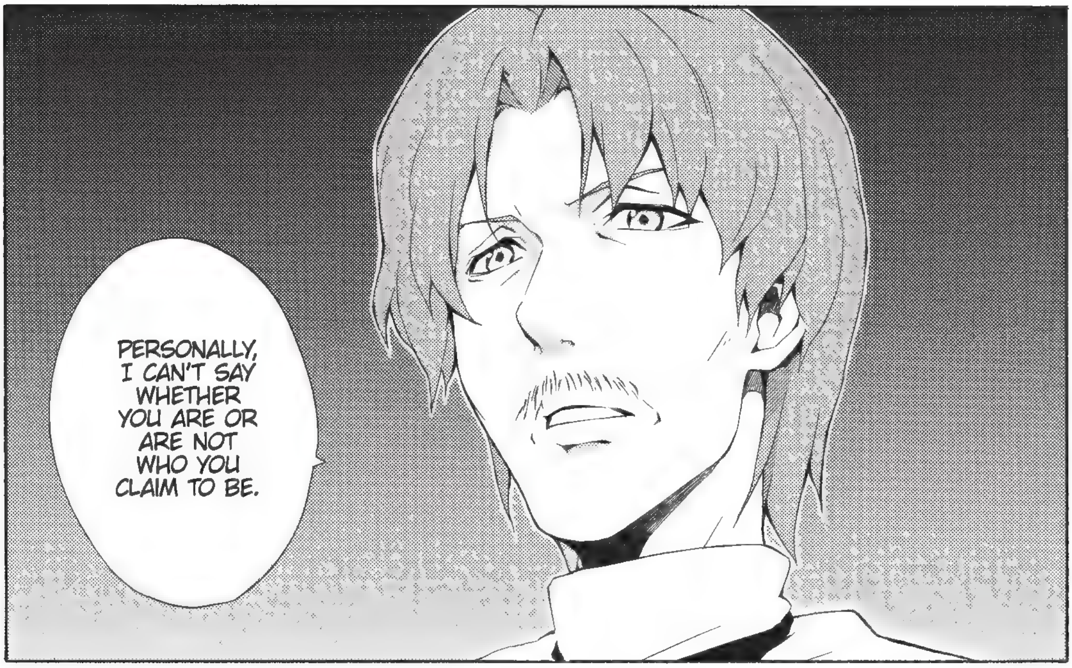
← Aichi, Kuromaru Yoshihiro

↑ Yamaguchi, Yosumi

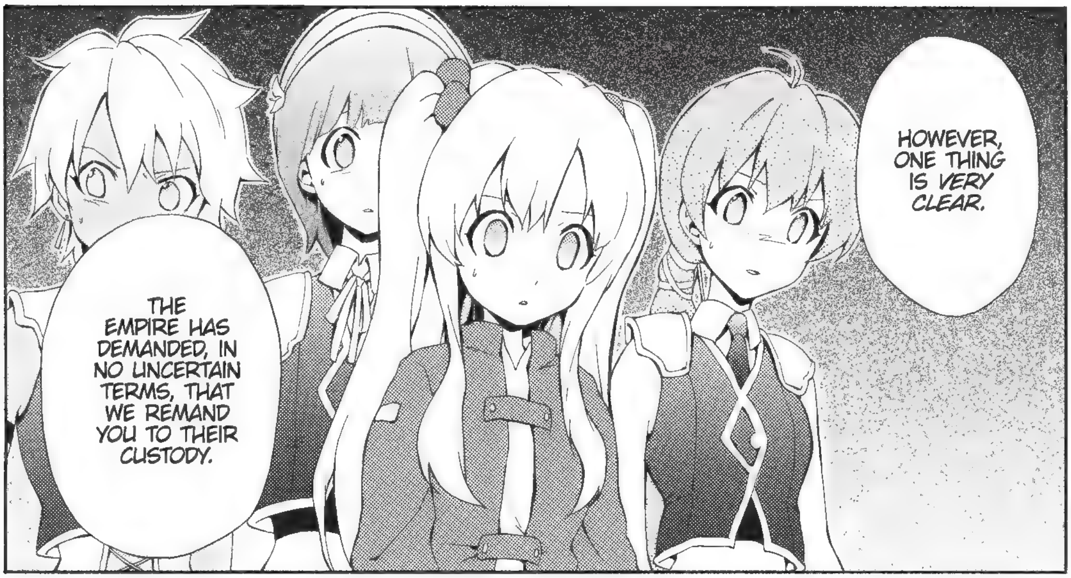


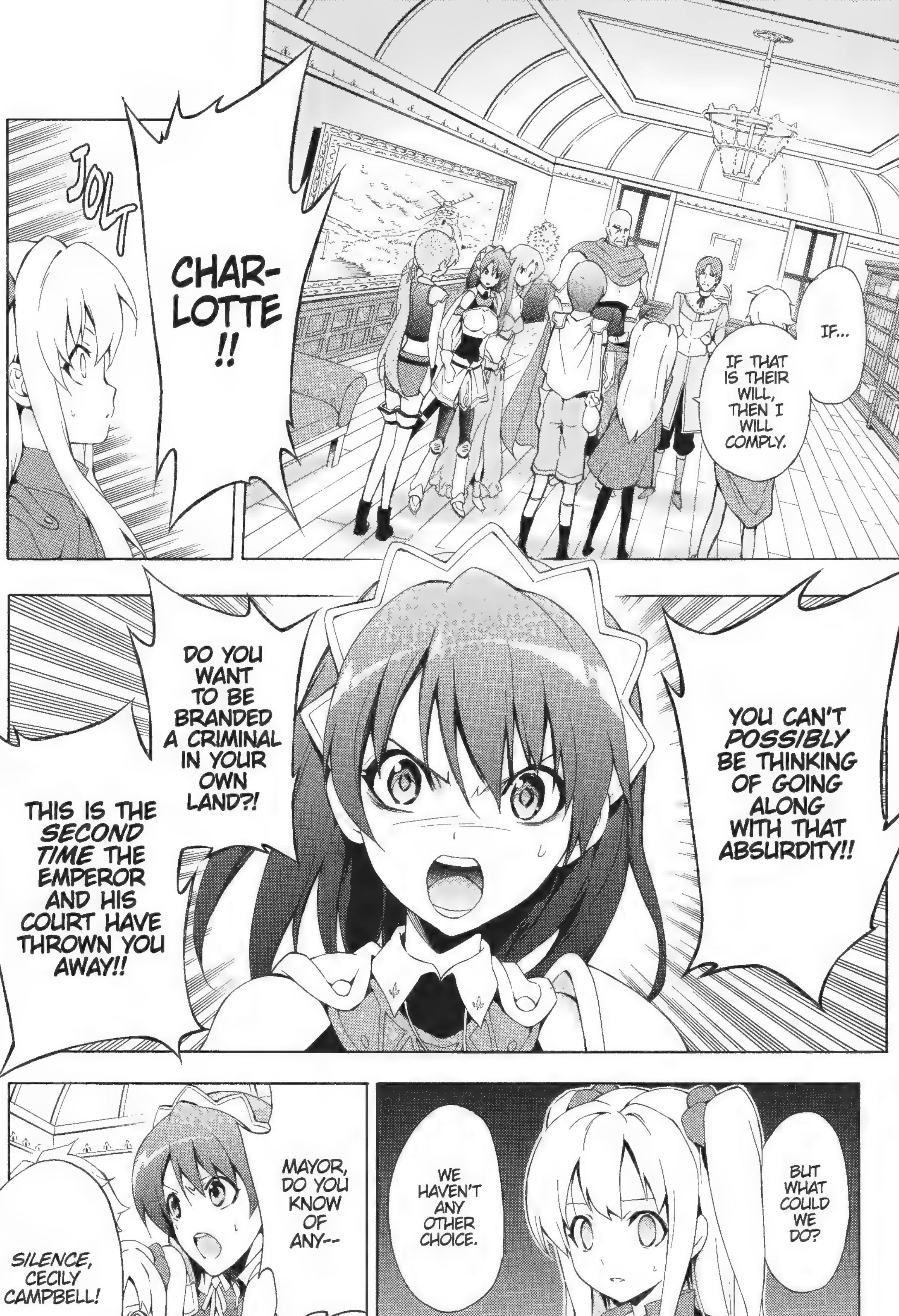
↓ Aichi, Excalibur

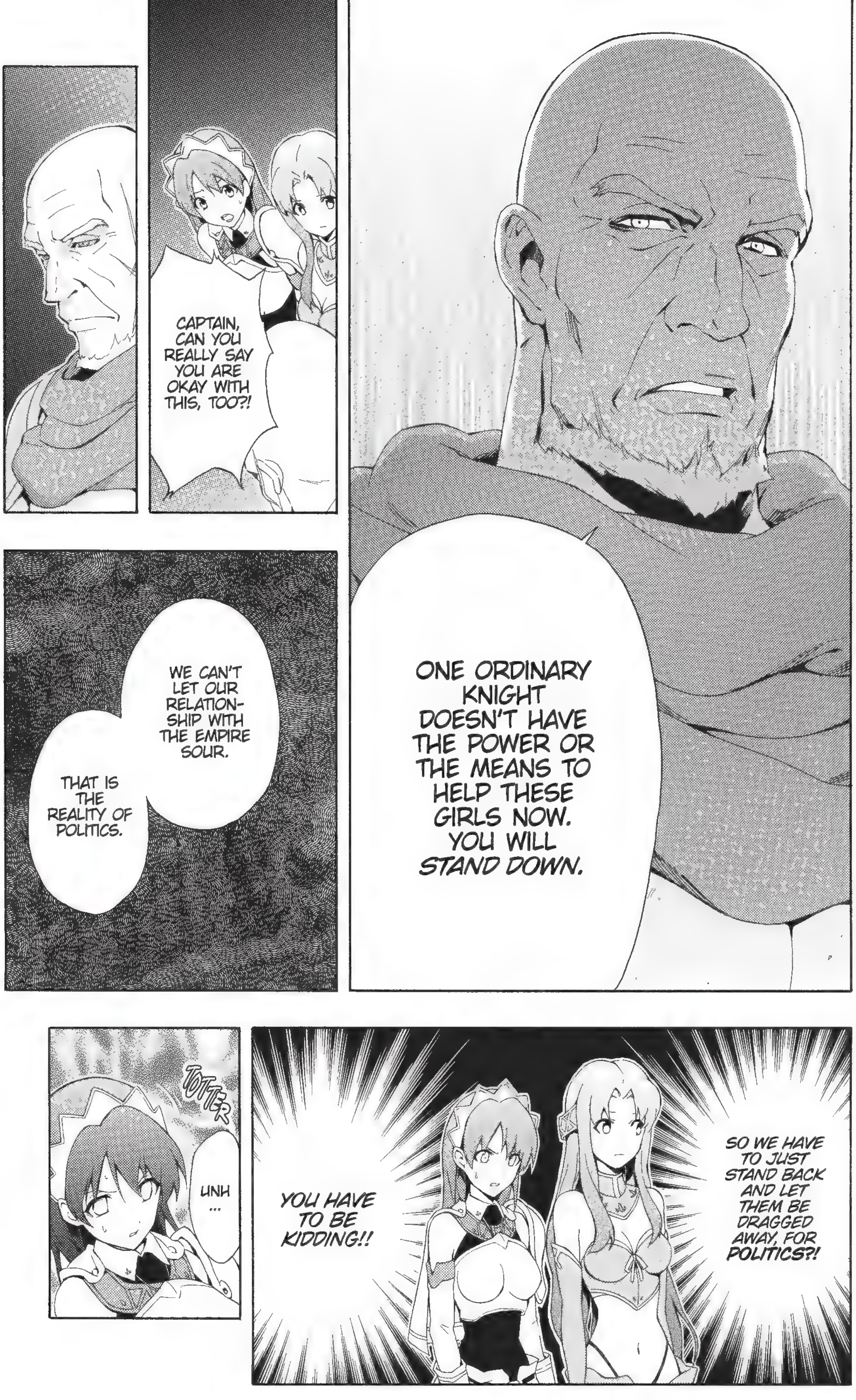
Gods, where do these guys get all that spare energy? Still, I can't say I don't like the results.

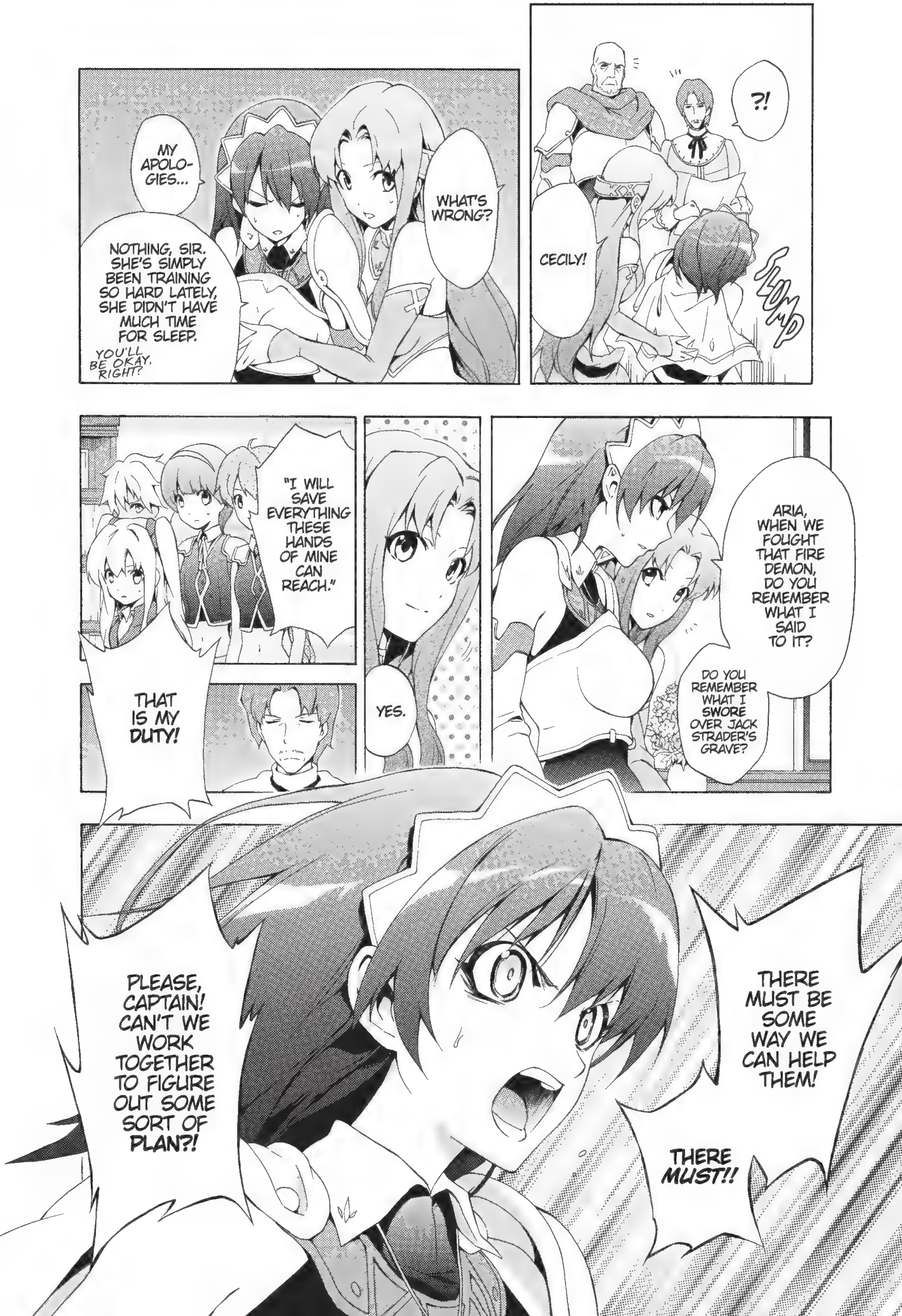

PERSONALLY, I CAN'T SAY WHETHER YOU ARE OR ARE NOT WHO YOU CLAIM TO BE.

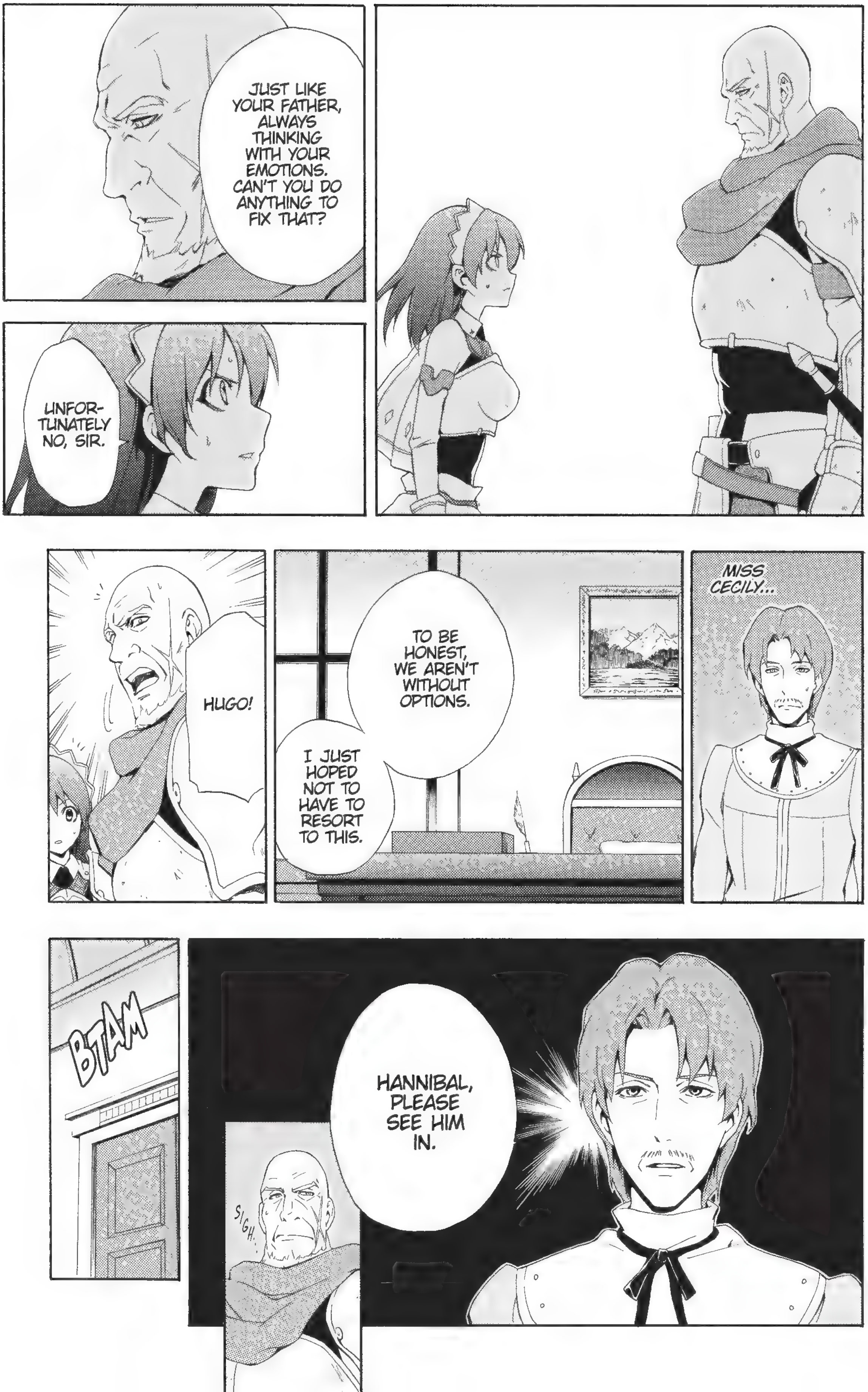
Chapter 11 Princess (Part 4)

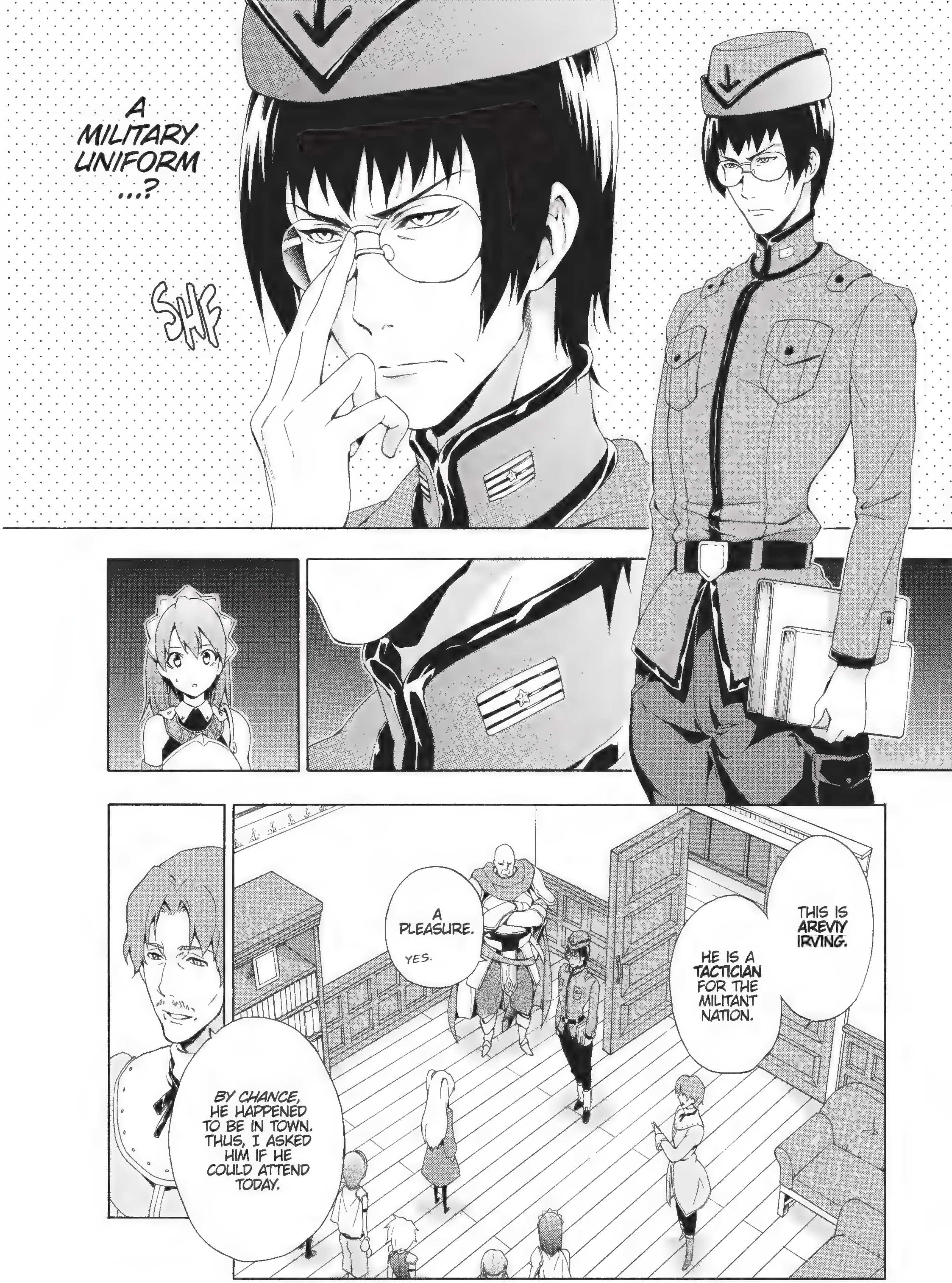

HOWEVER, ONE THING IS *VERY* CLEAR.
THE EMPIRE HAS DEMANDED, IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, THAT WE REMAND YOU TO THEIR CUSTODY.

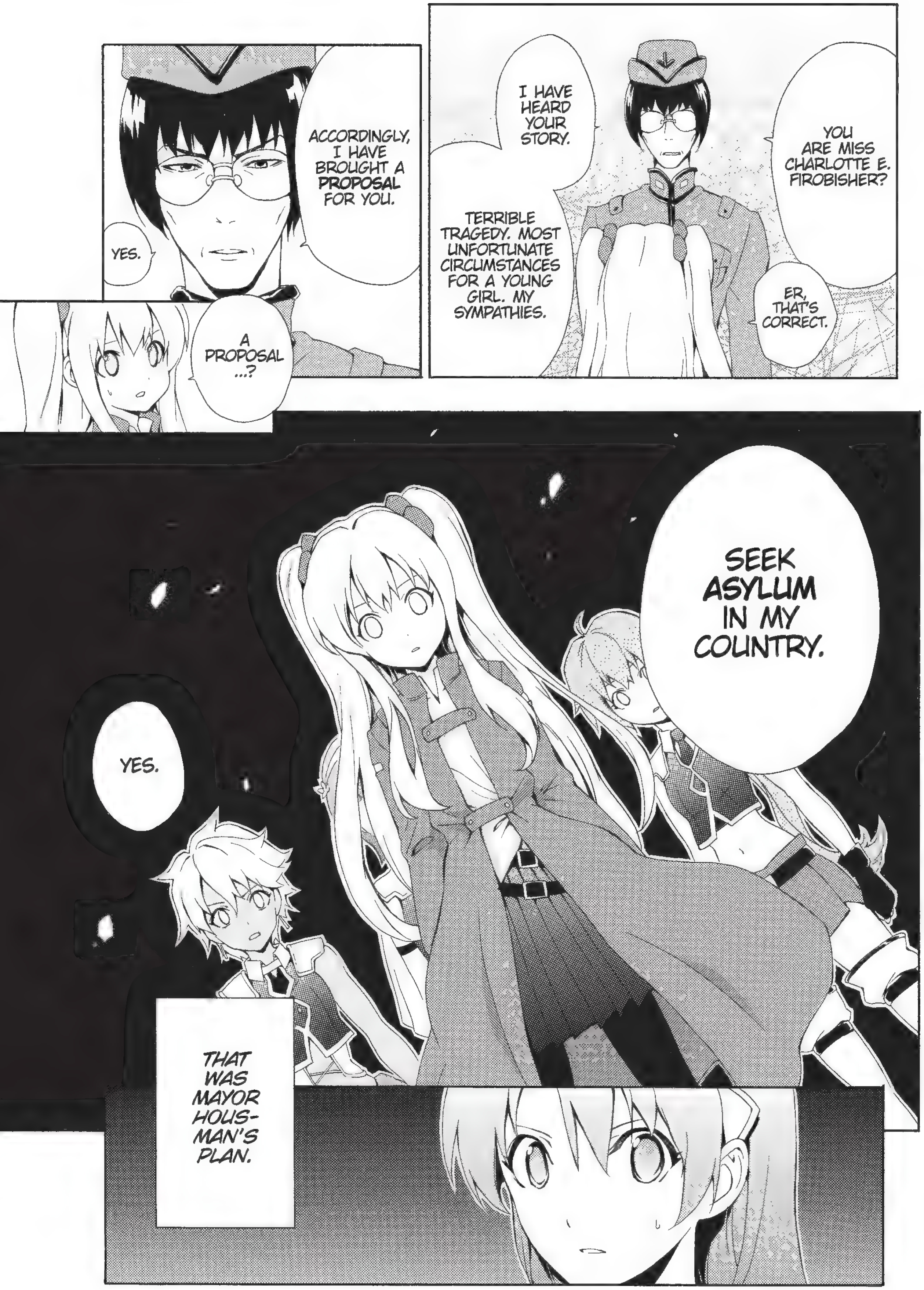

IF...
IF THAT IS THEIR WILL, THEN I WILL COMPLY.
JOLT
CHARLOTTE!!
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THINKING OF GOING ALONG WITH THAT ABSURDITY!!
DO YOU WANT TO BE BRANDED A CRIMINAL IN YOUR OWN LAND?!
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THE EMPEROR AND HIS COURT HAVE THROWN YOU AWAY!!
BUT WHAT COULD WE DO?
WE HAVEN'T ANY OTHER CHOICE.
MAYOR, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY--
SILENCE, CECILY CAMPBELL!

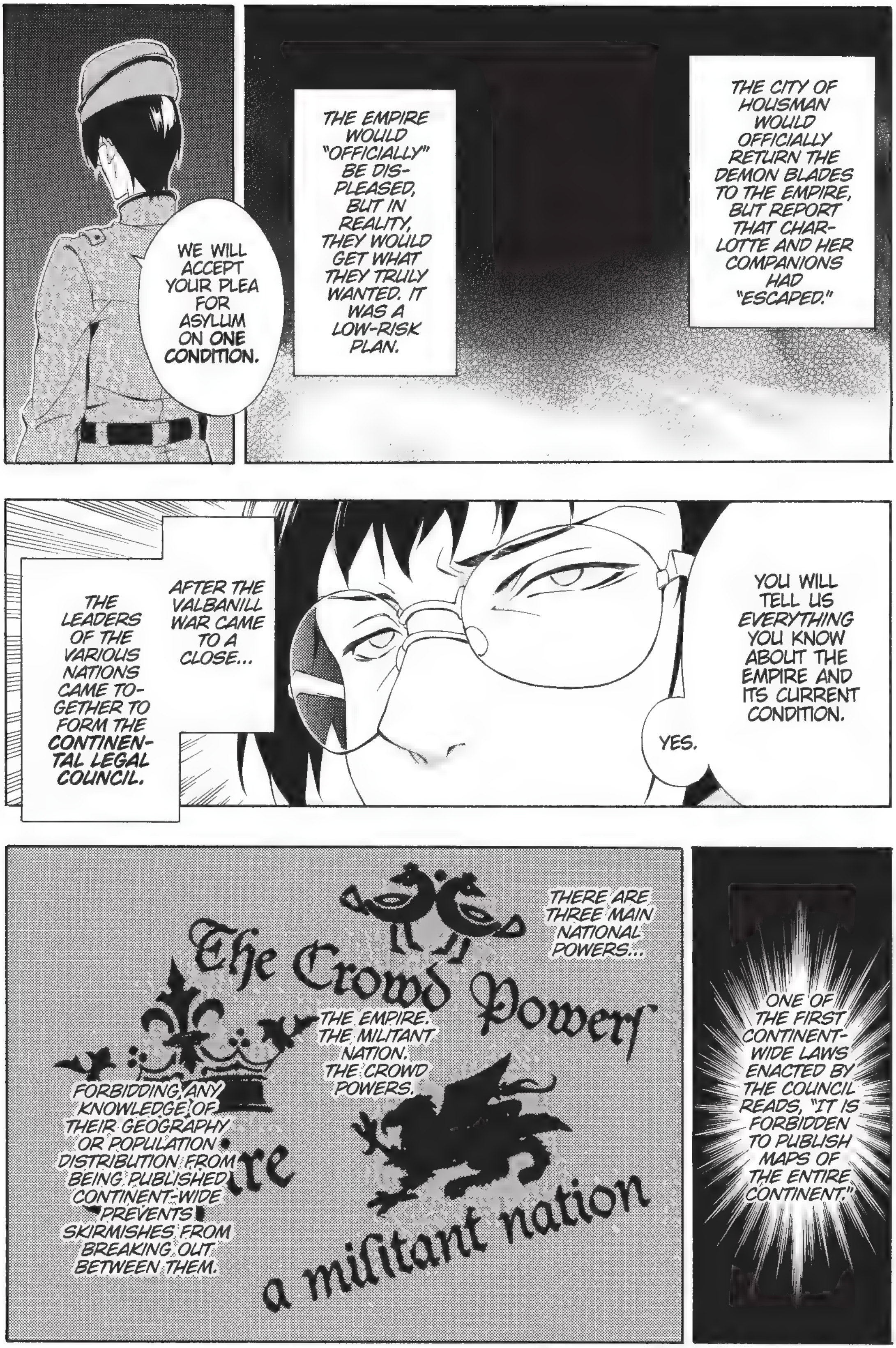

ONE ORDINARY KNIGHT DOESN'T HAVE THE POWER OR THE MEANS TO HELP THESE GIRLS NOW. YOU WILL *STAND DOWN.*
CAPTAIN, CAN YOU REALLY SAY YOU ARE OKAY WITH THIS, TOO?!
WE CAN'T LET OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EMPIRE SOUR.
THAT IS THE REALITY OF POLITICS.
SO WE HAVE TO JUST STAND BACK AND LET THEM BE DRAGGED AWAY, FOR **POLITICS?!**
YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING!!
TOTTER
UNH ...

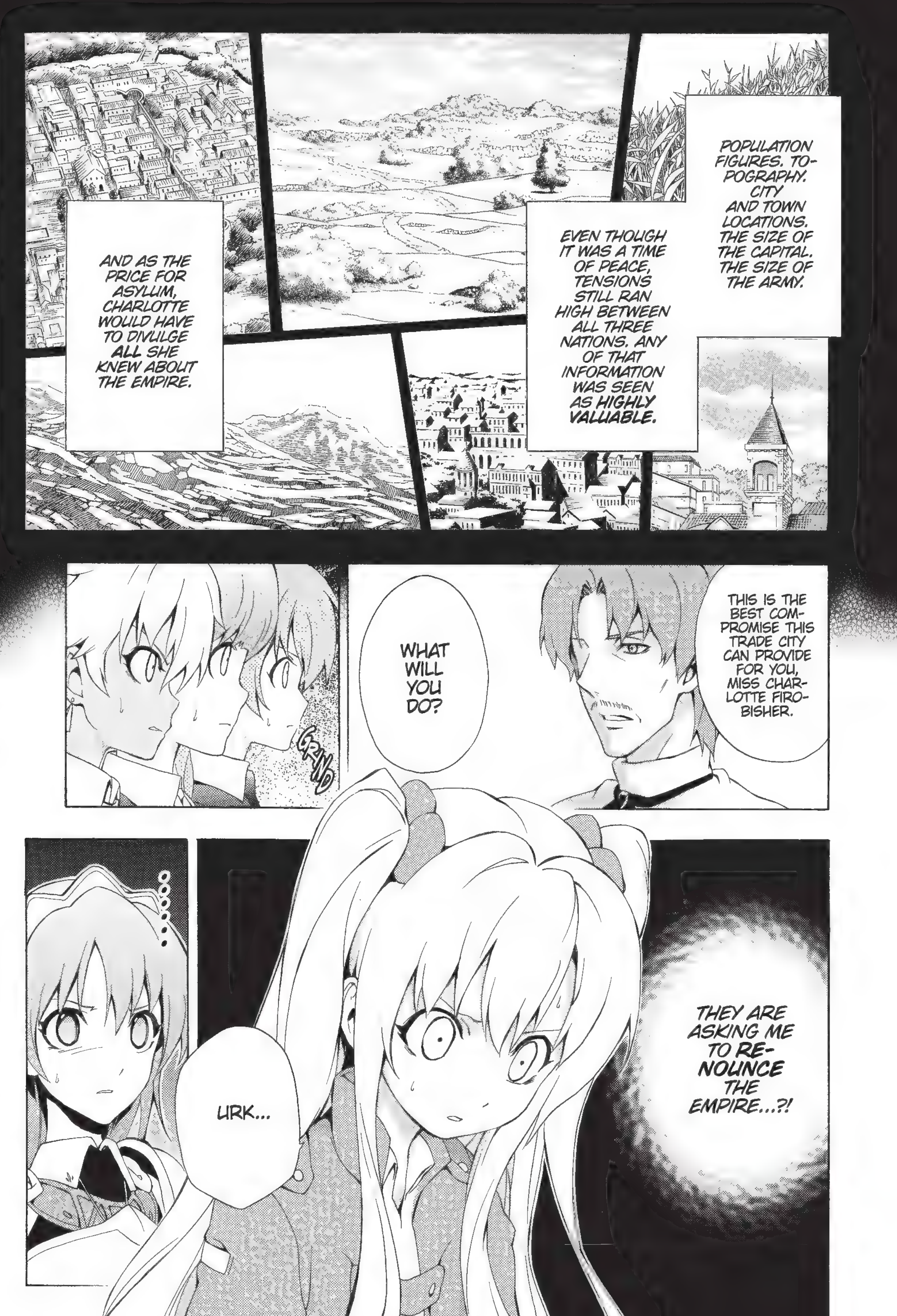

?!
CECILY!
SLOMP
WHAT'S WRONG?
MY APOLOGIES...
NOTHING, SIR. SHE'S SIMPLY BEEN TRAINING SO HARD LATELY, SHE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR SLEEP.
YOU'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
ARIA, WHEN WE FOUGHT THAT FIRE DEMON, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID TO IT?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SWORE OVER JACK STRADER'S GRAVE?
YES.
"I WILL SAVE EVERYTHING THESE HANDS OF MINE CAN REACH."
THAT IS MY DUTY!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY WE CAN HELP THEM!
THERE MUST!!
PLEASE, CAPTAIN! CAN'T WE WORK TOGETHER TO FIGURE OUT SOME SORT OF PLAN?!

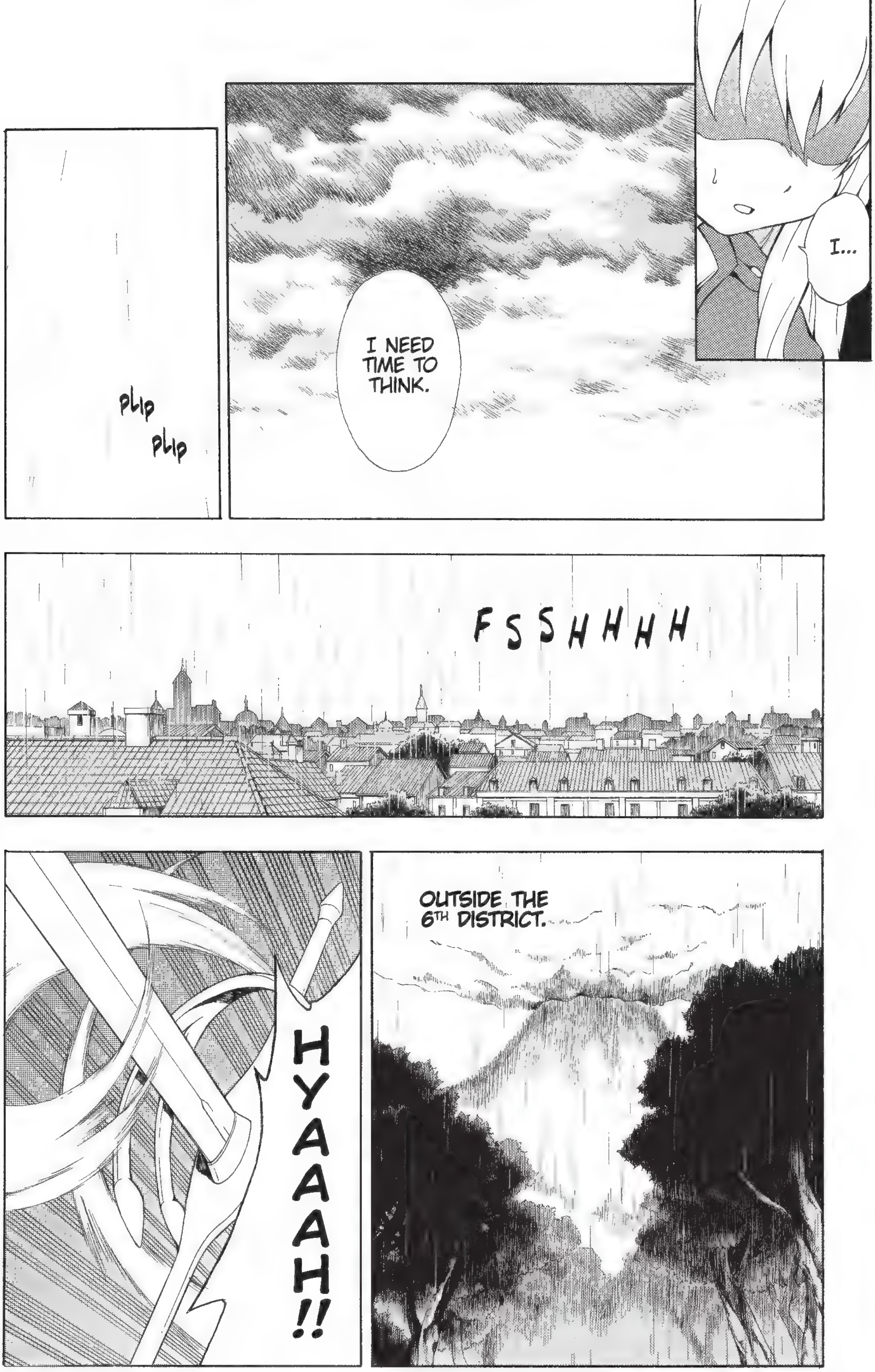

JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER, ALWAYS THINKING WITH YOUR EMOTIONS. CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING TO FIX THAT?
UNFORTUNATELY NO, SIR.
MISS CECILY...
TO BE HONEST, WE AREN'T WITHOUT OPTIONS.
I JUST HOPED NOT TO HAVE TO RESORT TO THIS.
HUGO!
HANNIBAL, PLEASE SEE HIM IN.
SIGH.
BTAM

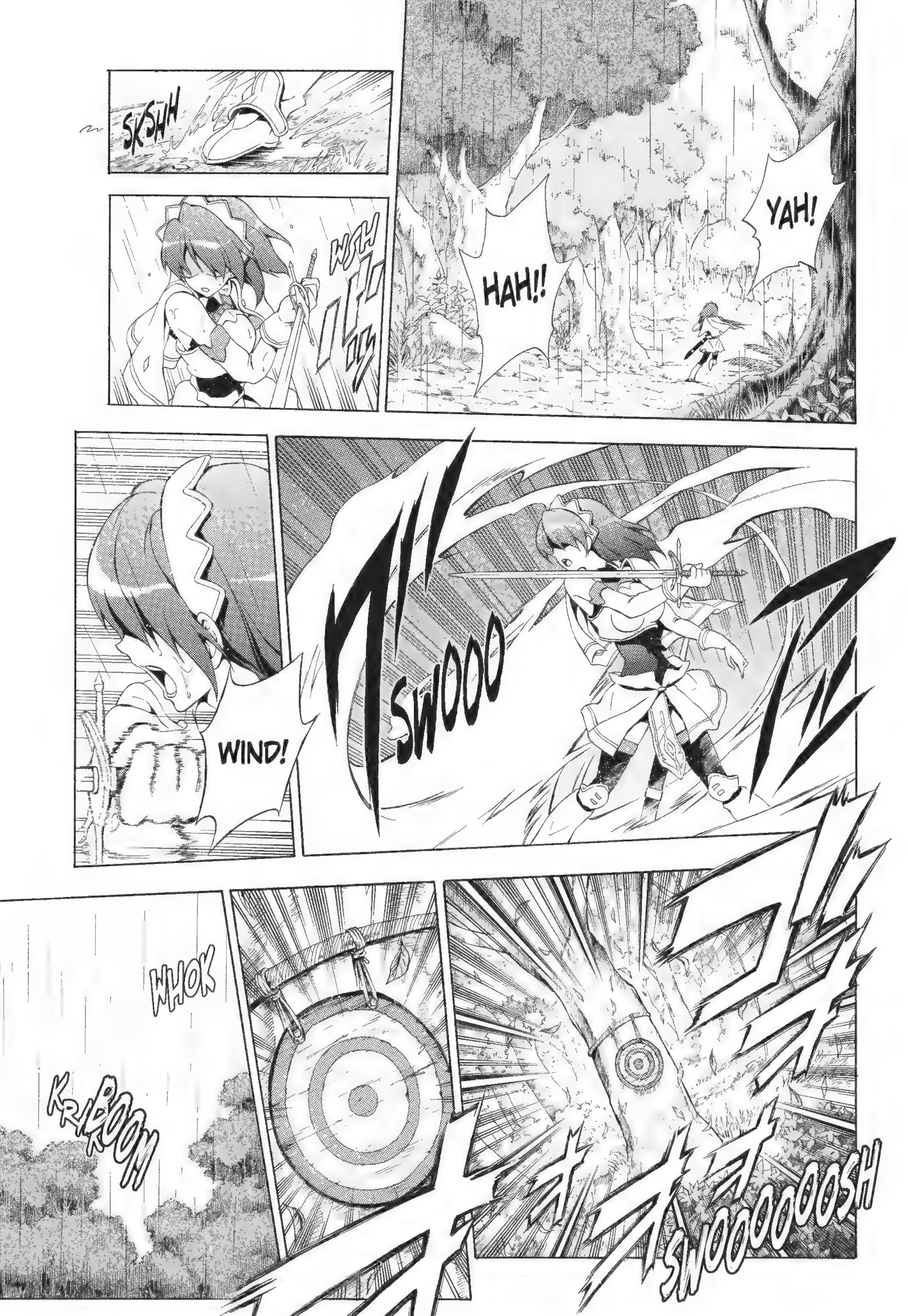

A MILITARY UNIFORM ...?
SHF
THIS IS AREVIY IRVING.
HE IS A TACTICIAN FOR THE MILITANT NATION.
A PLEASURE.
YES.
BY CHANCE, HE HAPPENED TO BE IN TOWN. THUS, I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD ATTEND TODAY.

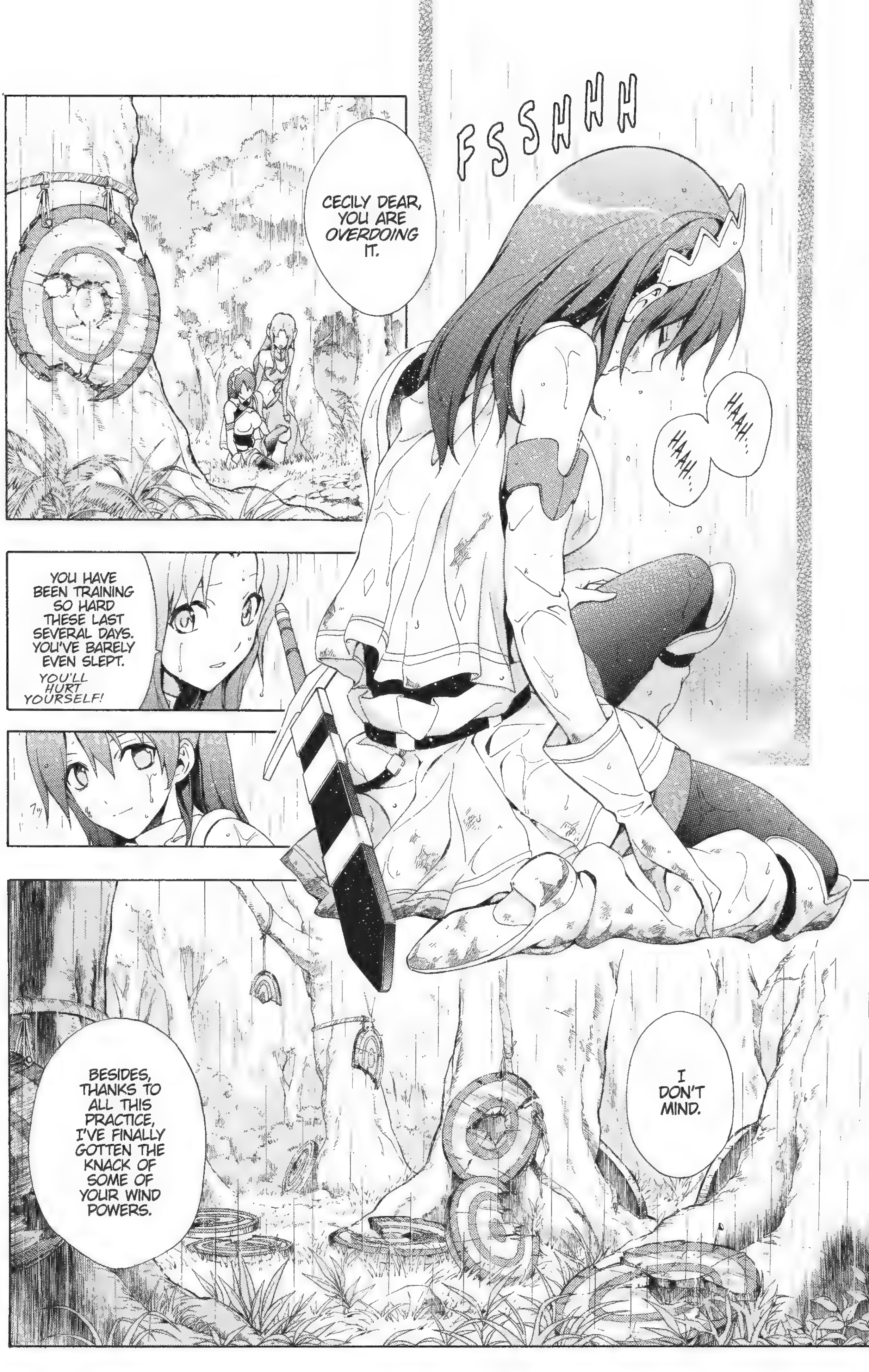

YOU ARE MISS CHARLOTTE E. FIROBISHER?
ER, THAT'S CORRECT.
I HAVE HEARD YOUR STORY.
TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. MOST UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A YOUNG GIRL. MY SYMPATHIES.
ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE BROUGHT A **PROPOSAL** FOR YOU.
YES.
A PROPOSAL ...?
SEEK **ASYLUM** IN MY COUNTRY.
YES.
THAT WAS MAYOR HOUSMAN'S PLAN.

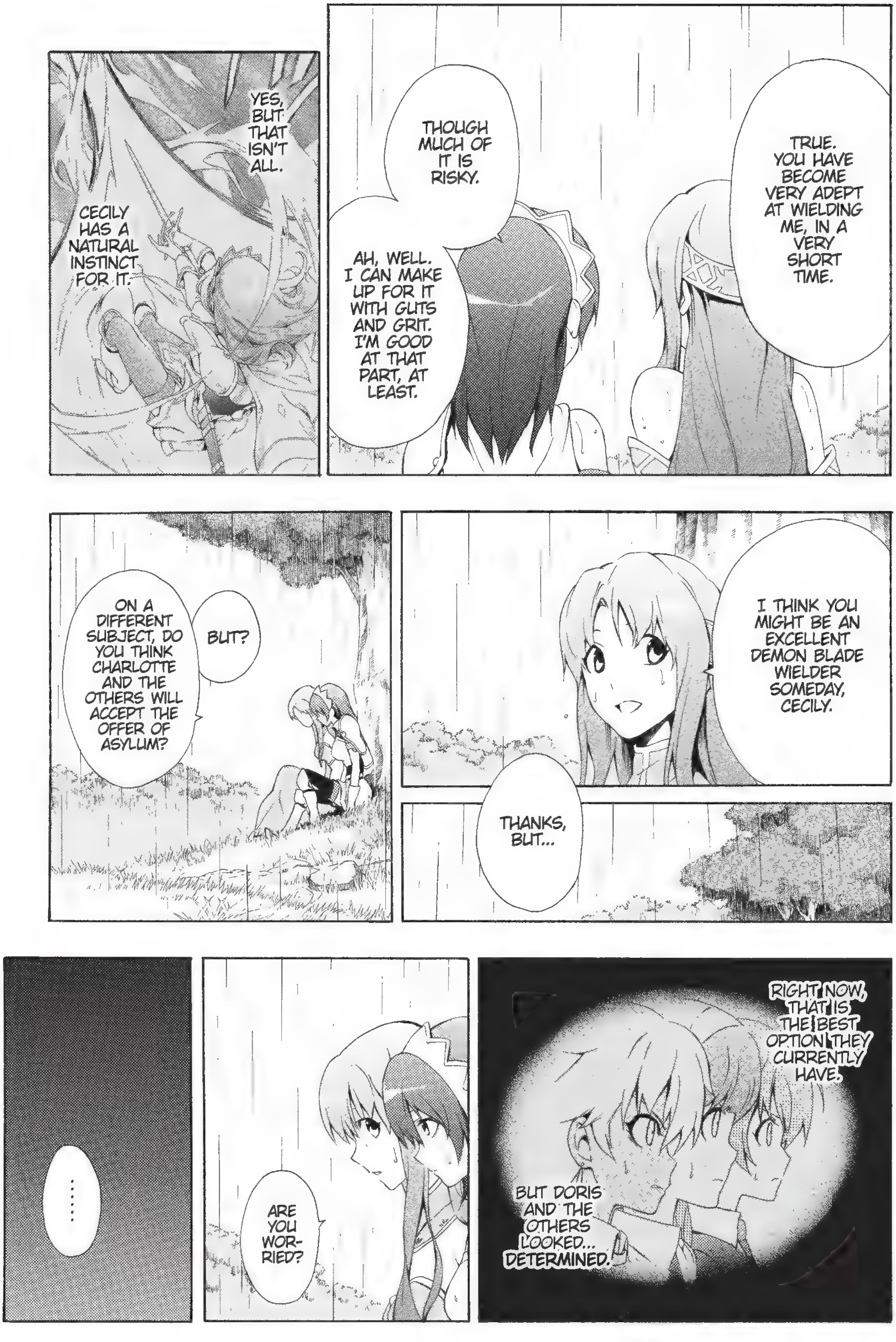

THE CITY OF HOUSMAN WOULD OFFICIALLY RETURN THE DEMON BLADES TO THE EMPIRE, BUT REPORT THAT CHARLOTTE AND HER COMPANIONS HAD "ESCAPED."
THE EMPIRE WOULD "OFFICIALLY" BE DISPLEASED, BUT IN REALITY, THEY WOULD GET WHAT THEY TRULY WANTED. IT WAS A LOW-RISK PLAN.
WE WILL ACCEPT YOUR PLEA FOR ASYLUM ON ONE CONDITION.
YOU WILL TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EMPIRE AND ITS CURRENT CONDITION.
YES.
AFTER THE VALBANILL WAR CAME TO A CLOSE...
THE LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS NATIONS CAME TOGETHER TO FORM THE CONTINENTAL LEGAL COUNCIL.
ONE OF THE FIRST CONTINENT-WIDE LAWS ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL READS, "IT IS FORBIDDEN TO PUBLISH MAPS OF THE ENTIRE CONTINENT."
The Crowd Powers
re
a militant nation
THERE ARE THREE MAIN NATIONAL POWERS...
THE EMPIRE. THE MILITANT NATION. THE CROWD POWERS.
FORBIDDING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR GEOGRAPHY OR POPULATION DISTRIBUTION FROM BEING PUBLISHED CONTINENT-WIDE PREVENTS SKIRMISHES FROM BREAKING OUT BETWEEN THEM.

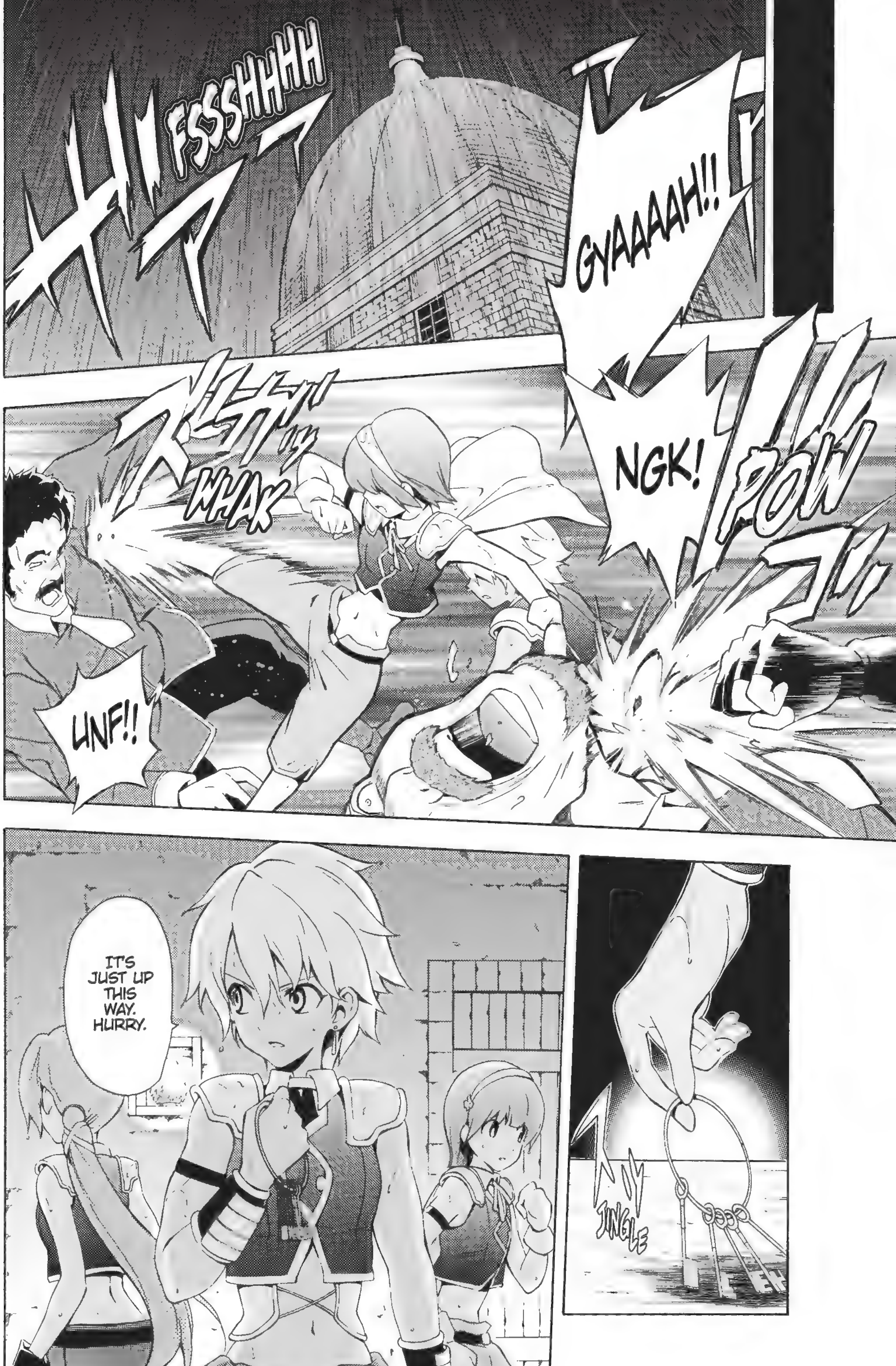

POPULATION FIGURES. TOPOGRAPHY. CITY AND TOWN LOCATIONS. THE SIZE OF THE CAPITAL. THE SIZE OF THE ARMY.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A TIME OF PEACE, TENSIONS STILL RAN HIGH BETWEEN ALL THREE NATIONS. ANY OF THAT INFORMATION WAS SEEN AS **HIGHLY VALUABLE.**
AND AS THE PRICE FOR ASYLUM, CHARLOTTE WOULD HAVE TO DIVULGE **ALL** SHE KNEW ABOUT THE EMPIRE.
THIS IS THE BEST COMPROMISE THIS TRADE CITY CAN PROVIDE FOR YOU, MISS CHARLOTTE FIROBISHER.
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
GRIND
THEY ARE ASKING ME TO **RENOUNCE** THE EMPIRE...?!
URK...
......

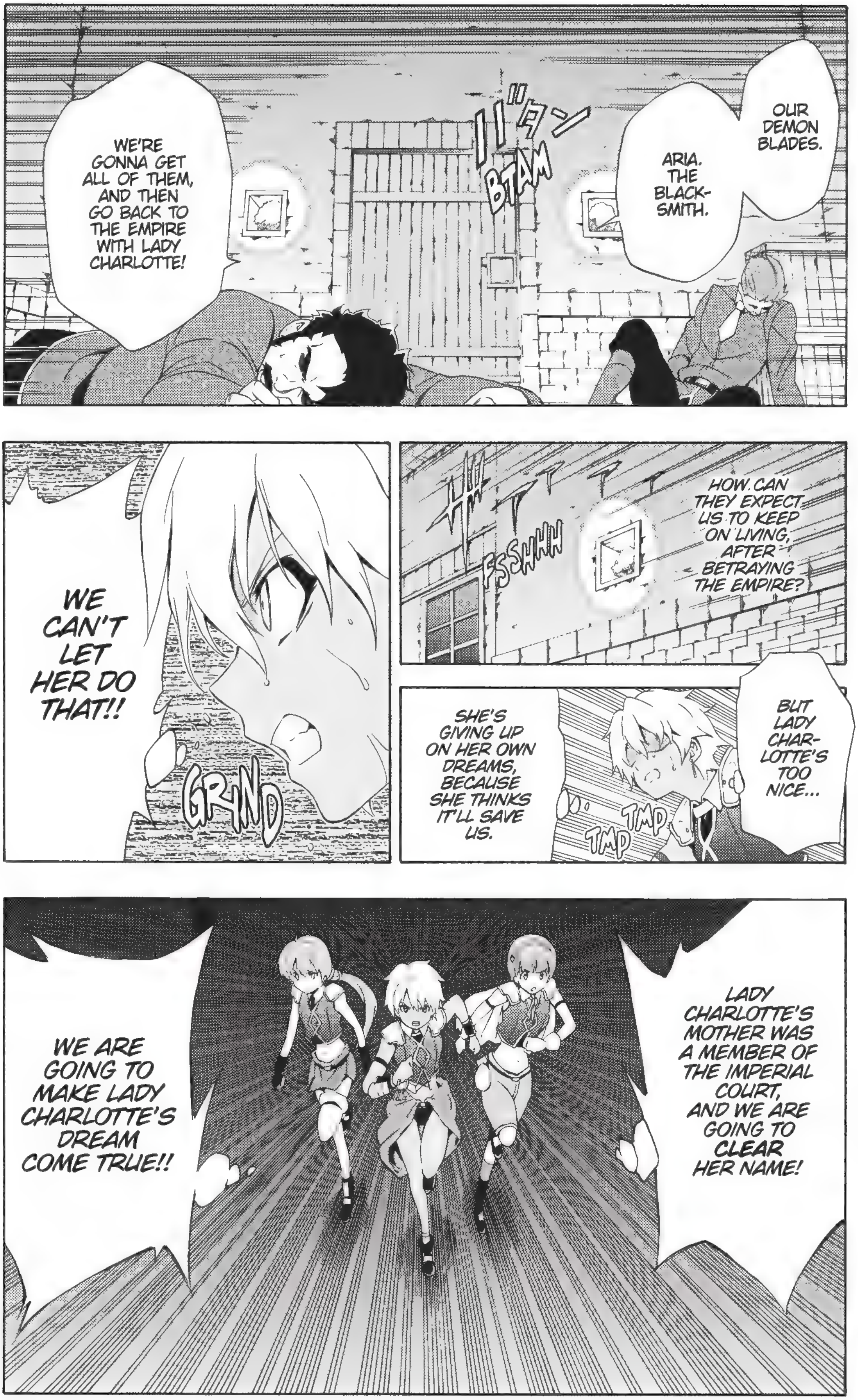

I...
I NEED TIME TO THINK.
plip
plip
FSSHHHH
OUTSIDE THE 6th DISTRICT.
HYAAAH!!

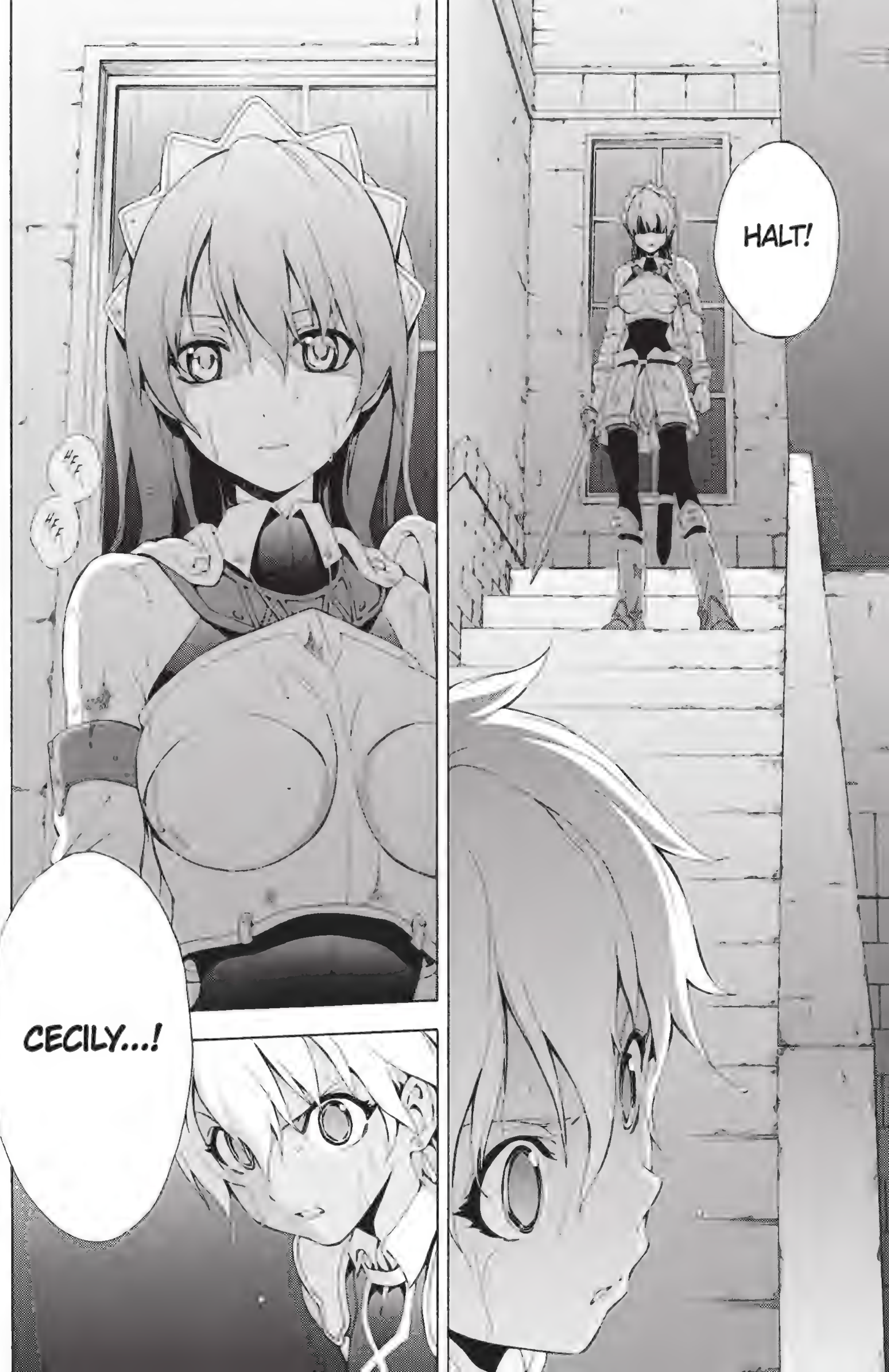

YAH!
HAH!!
SKSHH
WSH
SWOOO
WIND!
SWOOOOOOSH
WHOK
KRBOOM

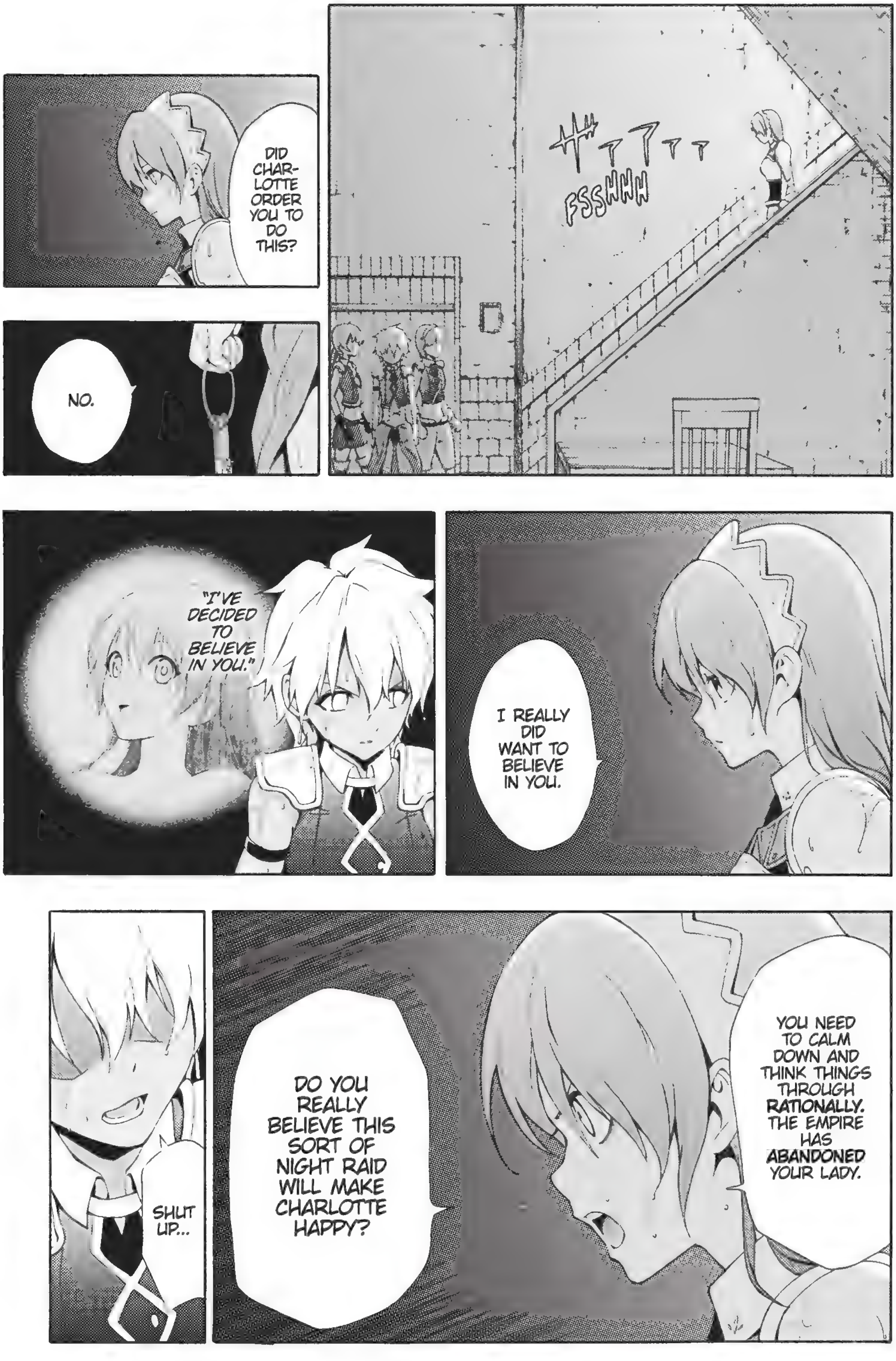

FSSHHH
HAAH... HAAH...
CECILY DEAR, YOU ARE *OVERDOING* IT.
YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINING SO HARD THESE LAST SEVERAL DAYS. YOU'VE BARELY EVEN SLEPT.
YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF!
I DON'T MIND.
BESIDES, THANKS TO ALL THIS PRACTICE, I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THE KNACK OF SOME OF YOUR WIND POWERS.

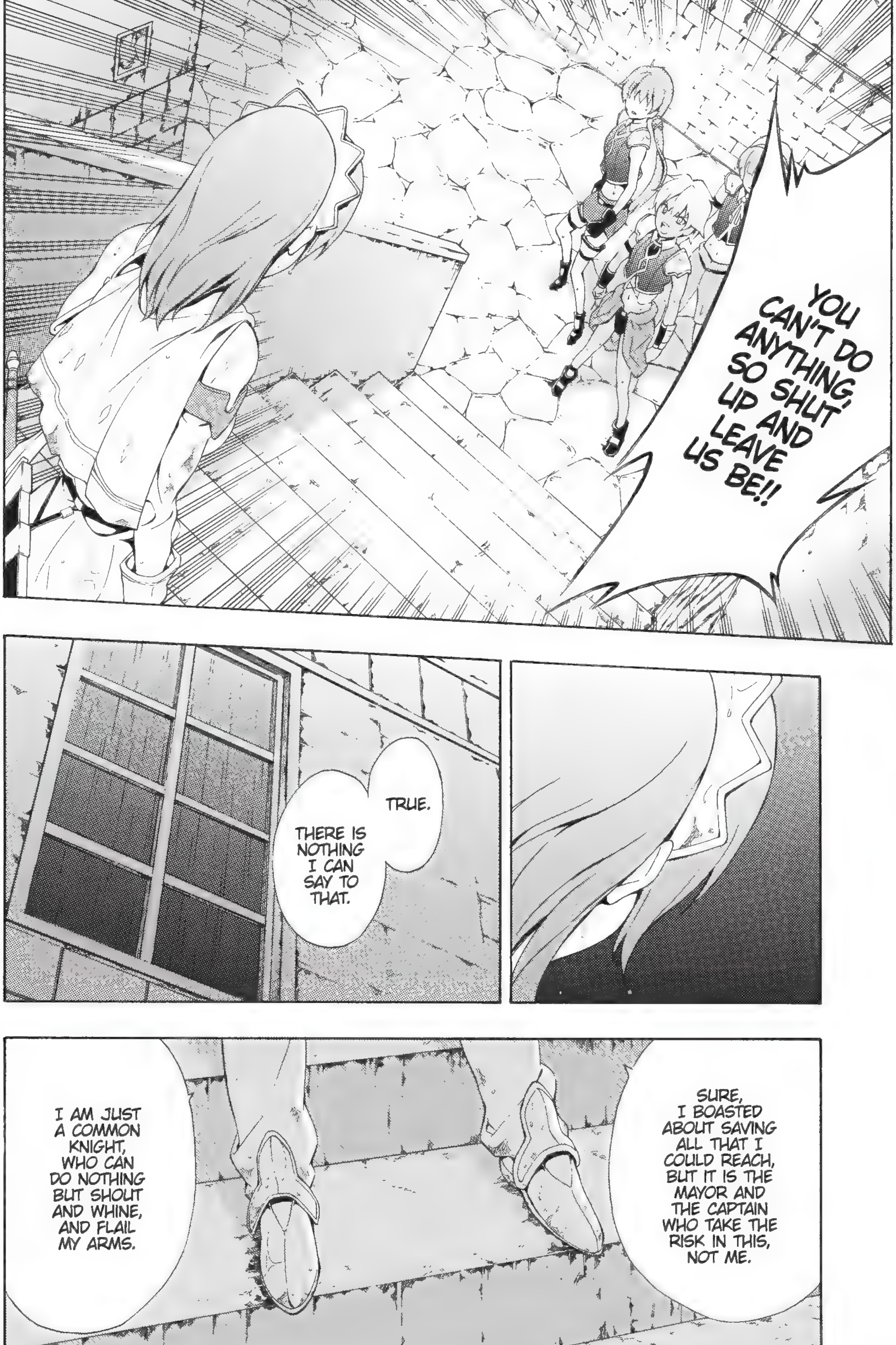

TRUE. YOU HAVE BECOME VERY ADEPT AT WIELDING ME, IN A VERY SHORT TIME.
THOUGH MUCH OF IT IS RISKY.
AH, WELL. I CAN MAKE UP FOR IT WITH GUTS AND GRIT. I'M GOOD AT THAT PART, AT LEAST.
YES, BUT THAT ISN'T ALL.
CECILY HAS A NATURAL INSTINCT FOR IT.
I THINK YOU MIGHT BE AN EXCELLENT DEMON BLADE WIELDER SOMEDAY, CECILY.
THANKS, BUT...
BUT?
ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, DO YOU THINK CHARLOTTE AND THE OTHERS WILL ACCEPT THE OFFER OF ASYLUM?
RIGHT NOW, THAT IS THE BEST OPTION THEY CURRENTLY HAVE.
BUT DORIS AND THE OTHERS LOOKED... DETERMINED.
ARE YOU WORRIED?
......

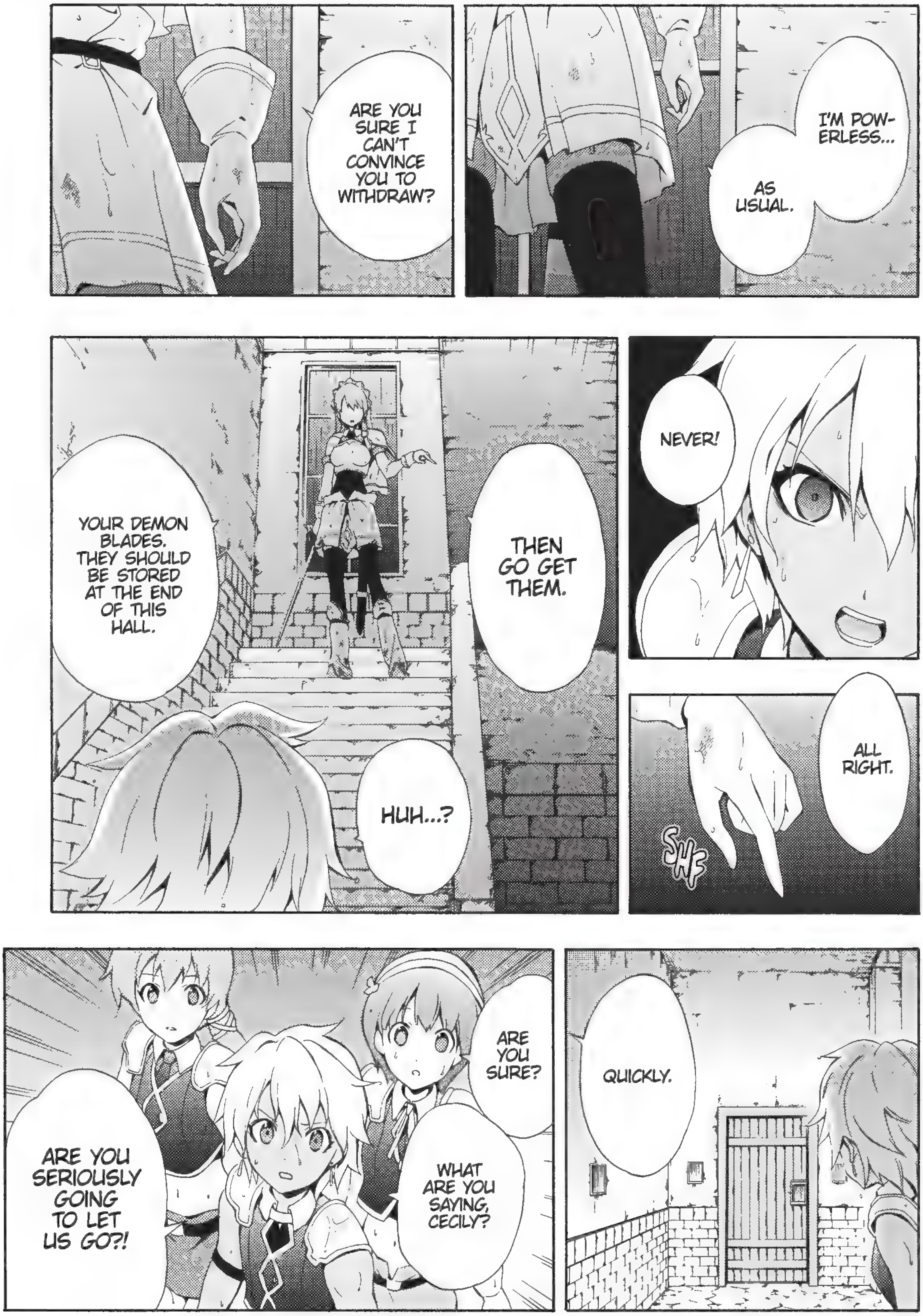

GYAAAAH!!
FSSSHHHH
NGK!
POW
WHAK
UNF!!
JINGLE
IT'S JUST UP THIS WAY. HURRY.

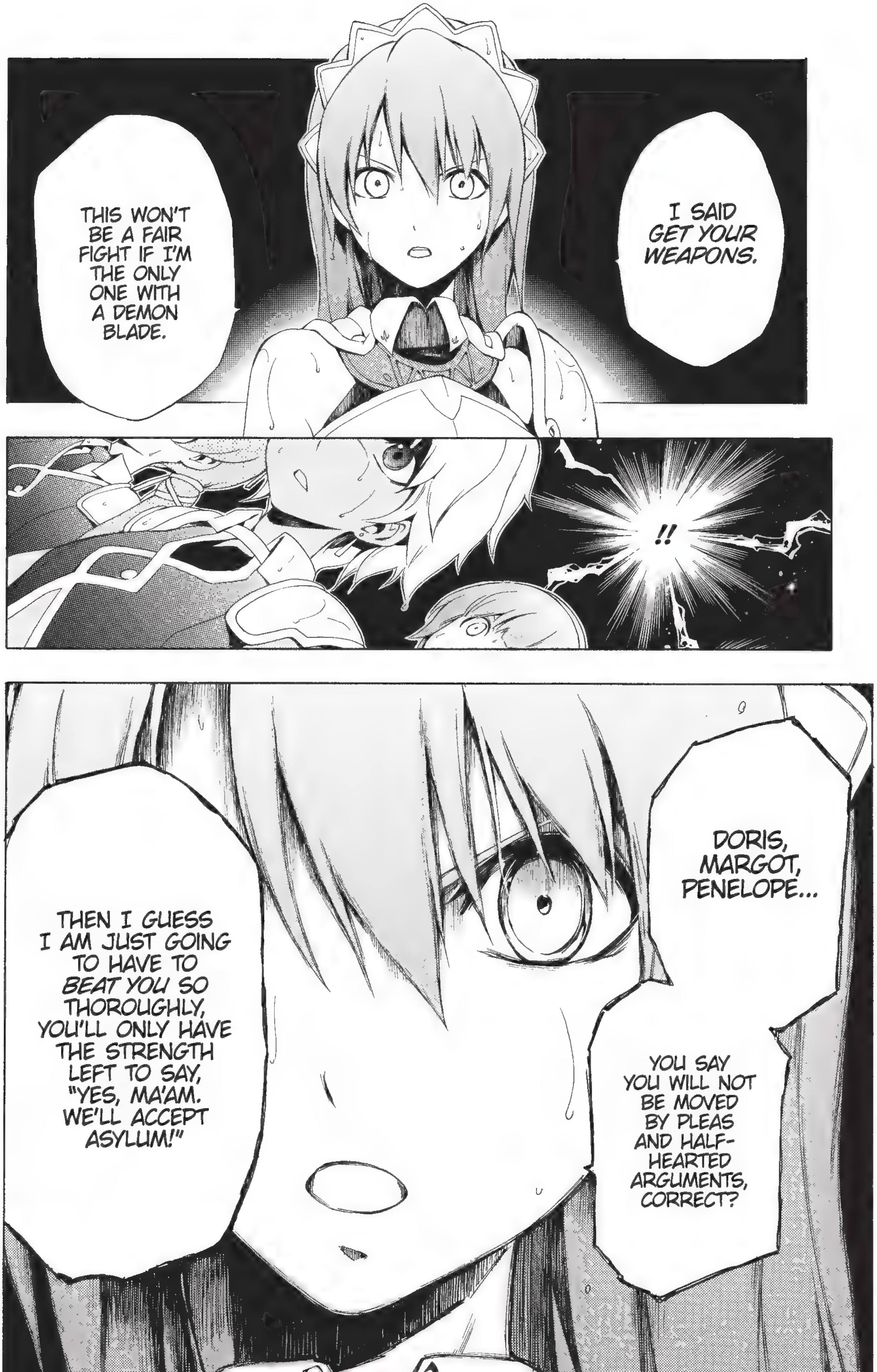

OUR DEMON BLADES.
ARIA. THE BLACKSMITH.
バタン
BTAM
WE'RE GONNA GET ALL OF THEM, AND THEN GO BACK TO THE EMPIRE WITH LADY CHARLOTTE!
ザァァァ
FSSHHH
HOW CAN THEY EXPECT US TO KEEP ON LIVING, AFTER BETRAYING THE EMPIRE?
BUT LADY CHARLOTTE'S TOO NICE...
SHE'S GIVING UP ON HER OWN DREAMS, BECAUSE SHE THINKS IT'LL SAVE US.
TMP
TMP
WE CAN'T LET HER DO THAT!!
GRIND
LADY CHARLOTTE'S MOTHER WAS A MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL COURT, AND WE ARE GOING TO CLEAR HER NAME!
WE ARE GOING TO MAKE LADY CHARLOTTE'S DREAM COME TRUE!!

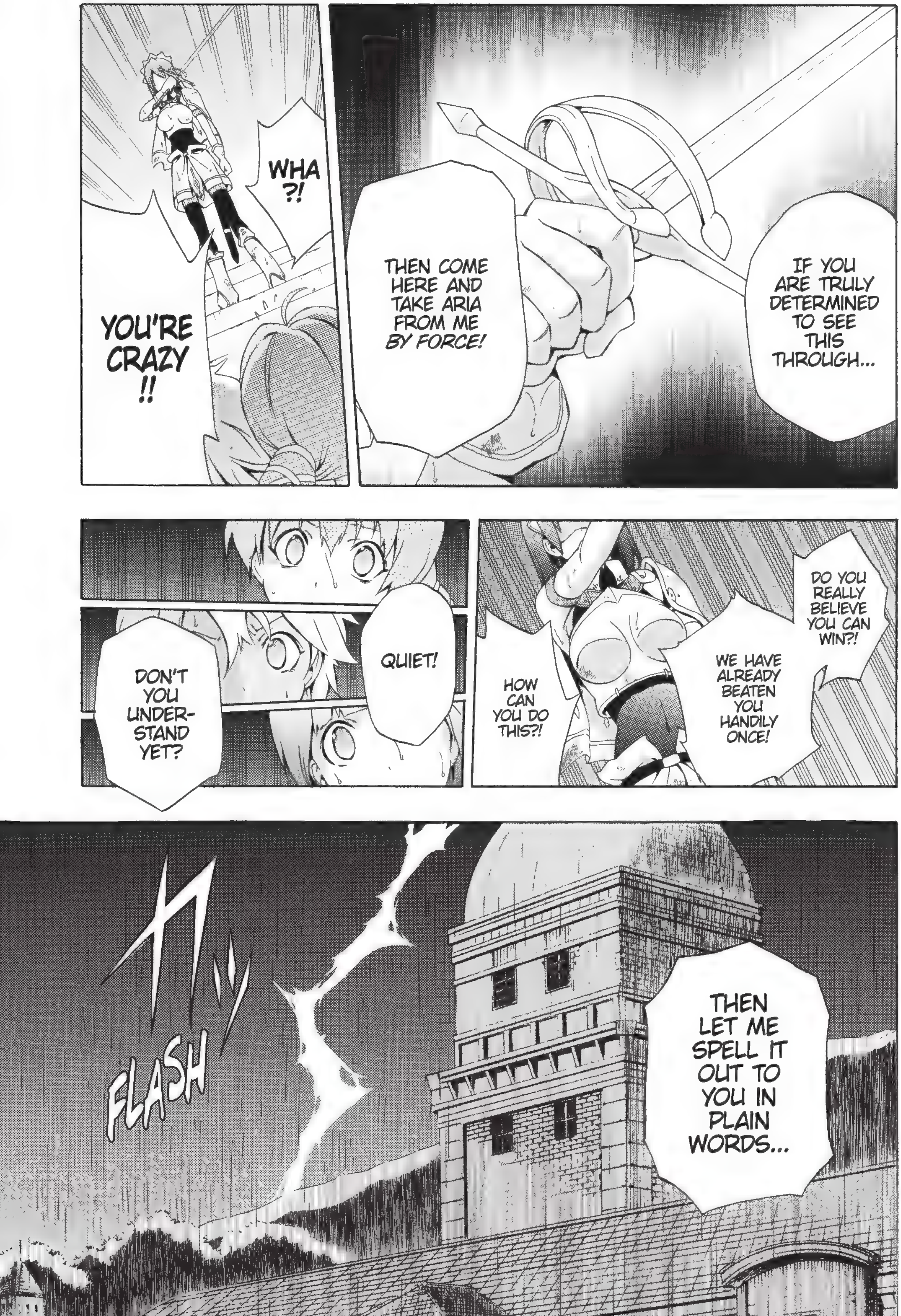

HALT!
HEE
HEE
CECILY...!

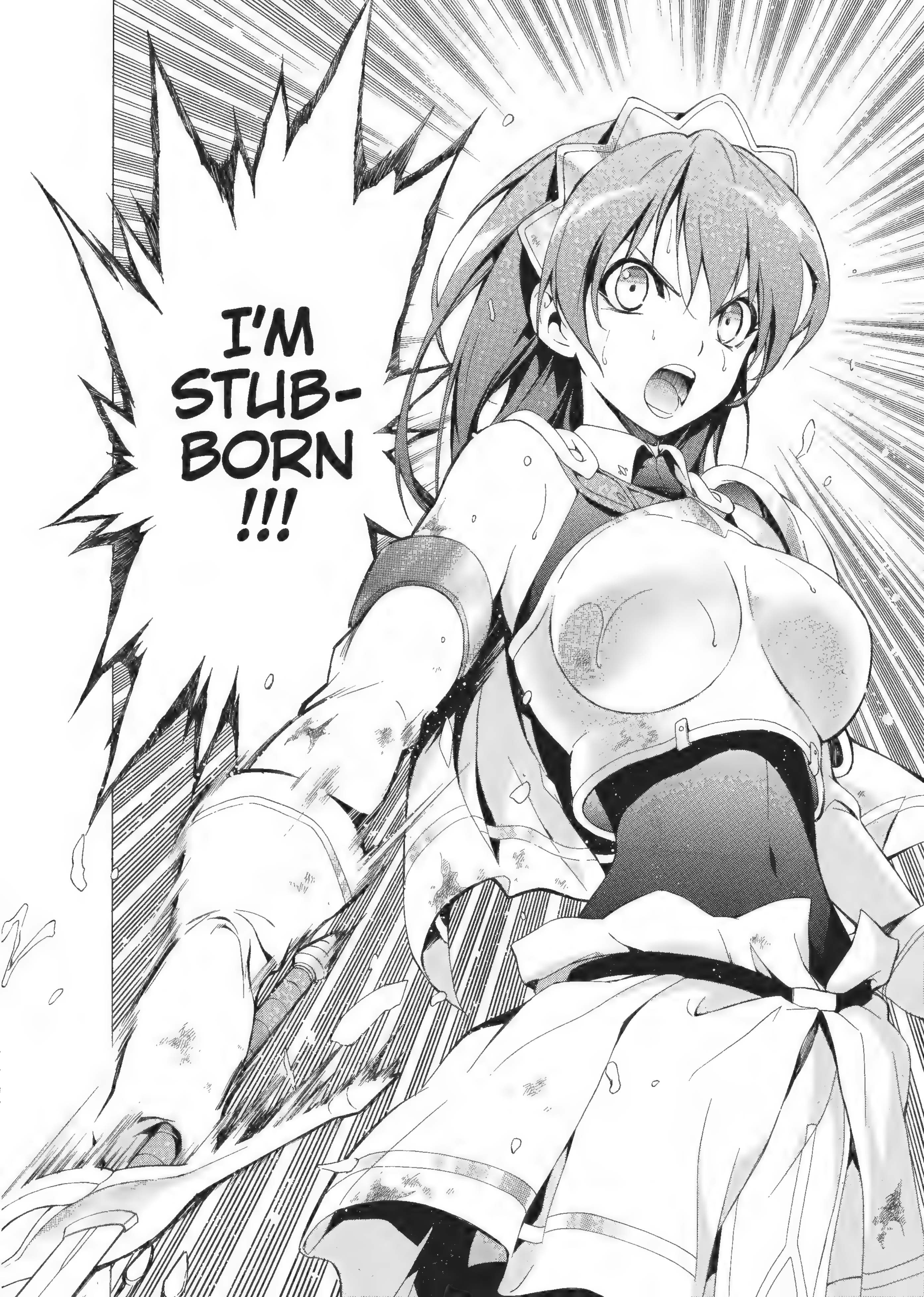

ザァァァァ
FSSHHH
DID CHARLOTTE ORDER YOU TO DO THIS?
NO.
I REALLY DID WANT TO BELIEVE IN YOU.
"I'VE DECIDED TO BELIEVE IN YOU."
YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN AND THINK THINGS THROUGH **RATIONALLY.** THE EMPIRE HAS **ABANDONED** YOUR LADY.
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS SORT OF NIGHT RAID WILL MAKE CHARLOTTE HAPPY?
SHUT UP...

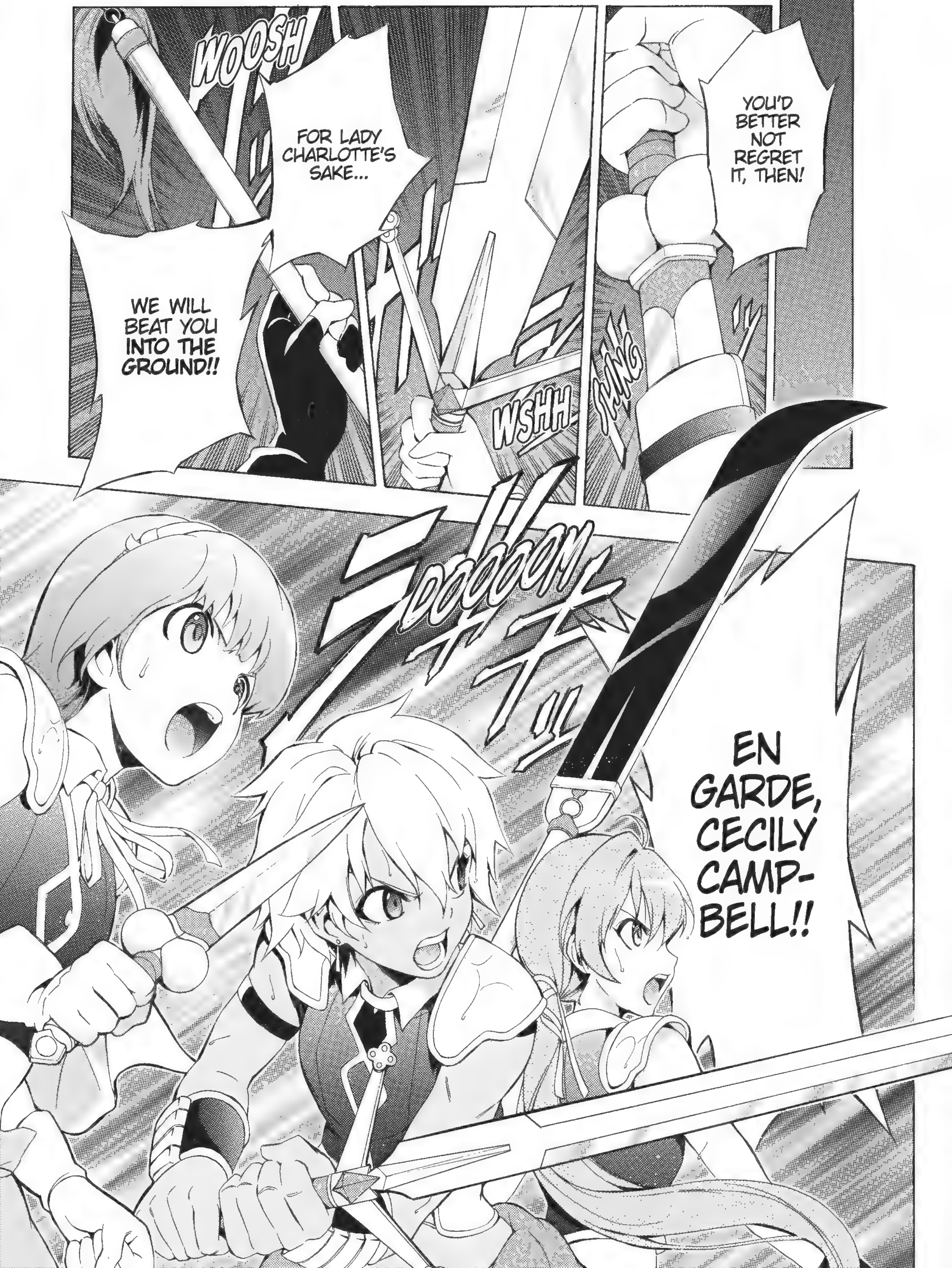

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING, SO SHUT UP AND LEAVE US BE!!
TRUE.
THERE IS NOTHING I CAN SAY TO THAT.
SURE, I BOASTED ABOUT SAVING ALL THAT I COULD REACH, BUT IT IS THE MAYOR AND THE CAPTAIN WHO TAKE THE RISK IN THIS, NOT ME.
I AM JUST A COMMON KNIGHT, WHO CAN DO NOTHING BUT SHOUT AND WHINE, AND FLAIL MY ARMS.

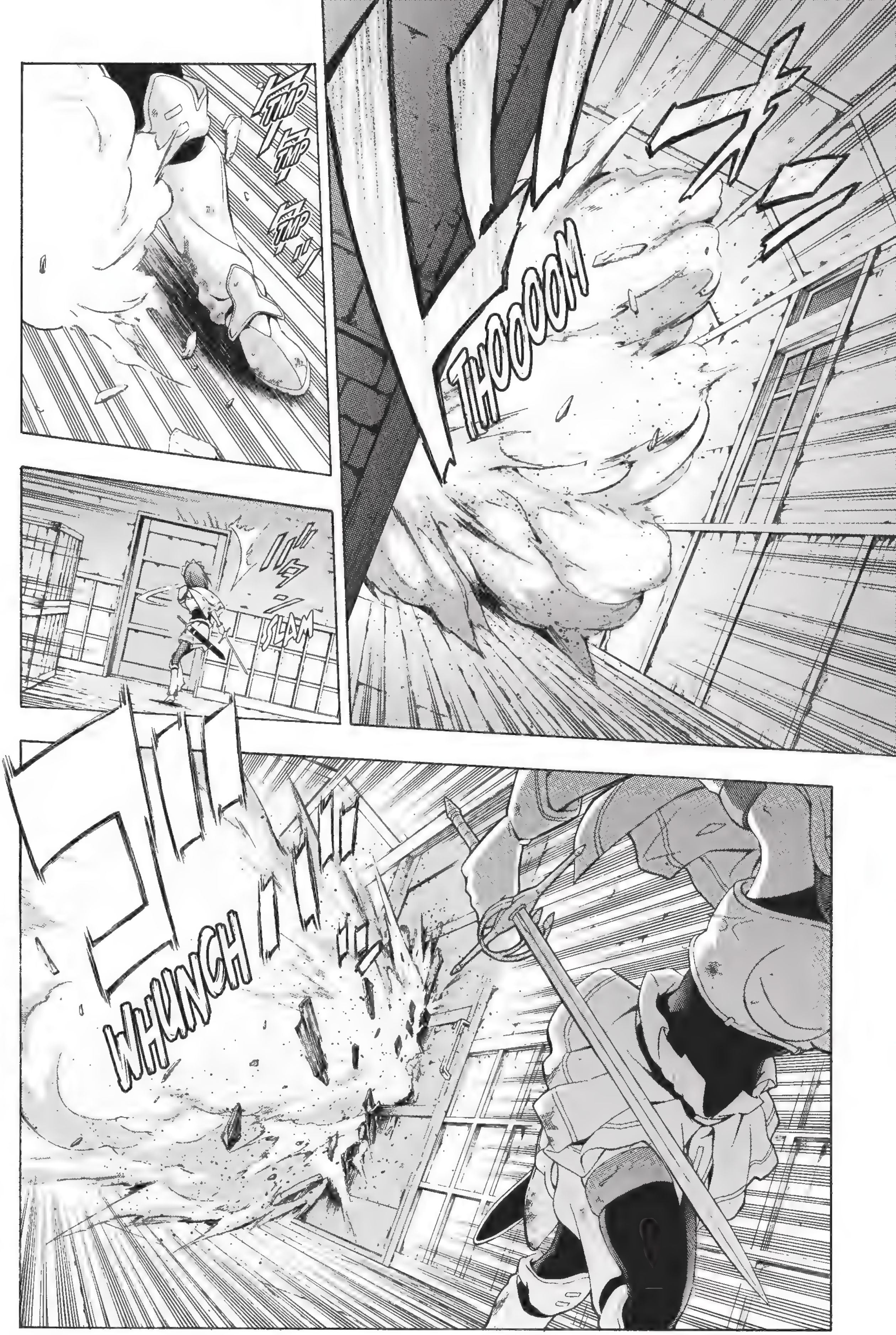

I'M POWERLESS...
AS USUAL.
ARE YOU SURE I CAN'T CONVINCE YOU TO WITHDRAW?
NEVER!
ALL RIGHT.
SHF
THEN GO GET THEM.
HUH...?
YOUR DEMON BLADES. THEY SHOULD BE STORED AT THE END OF THIS HALL.
QUICKLY.
ARE YOU SURE?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CECILY?
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO LET US GO?!

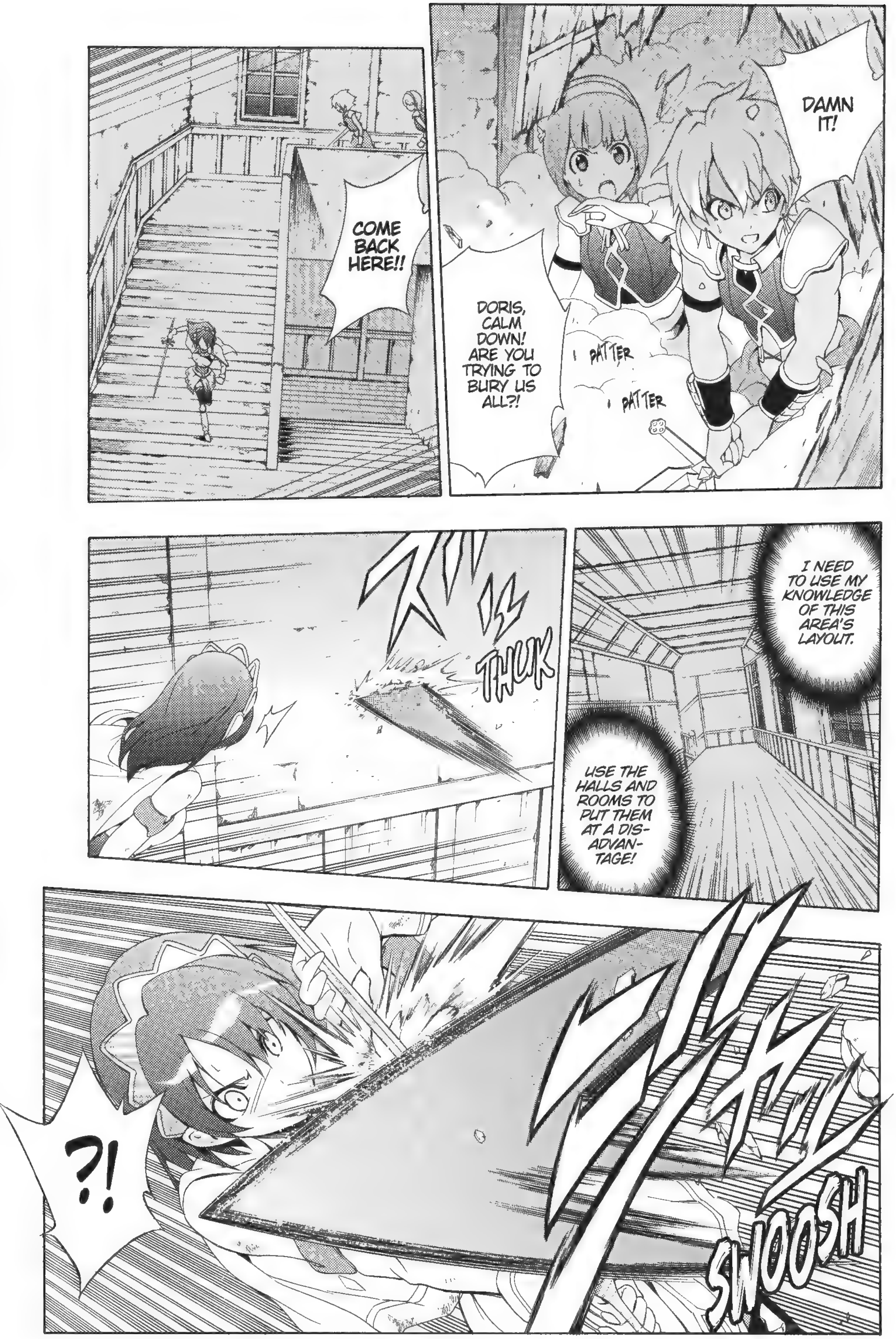

I SAID *GET YOUR WEAPONS.*
THIS WON'T BE A FAIR FIGHT IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH A DEMON BLADE.
!!
DORIS, MARGOT, PENELOPE...
YOU SAY YOU WILL NOT BE MOVED BY PLEAS AND HALF-HEARTED ARGUMENTS, CORRECT?
THEN I GUESS I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO *BEAT YOU* SO THOROUGHLY, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE THE STRENGTH LEFT TO SAY, "YES, MA'AM. WE'LL ACCEPT ASYLUM!"

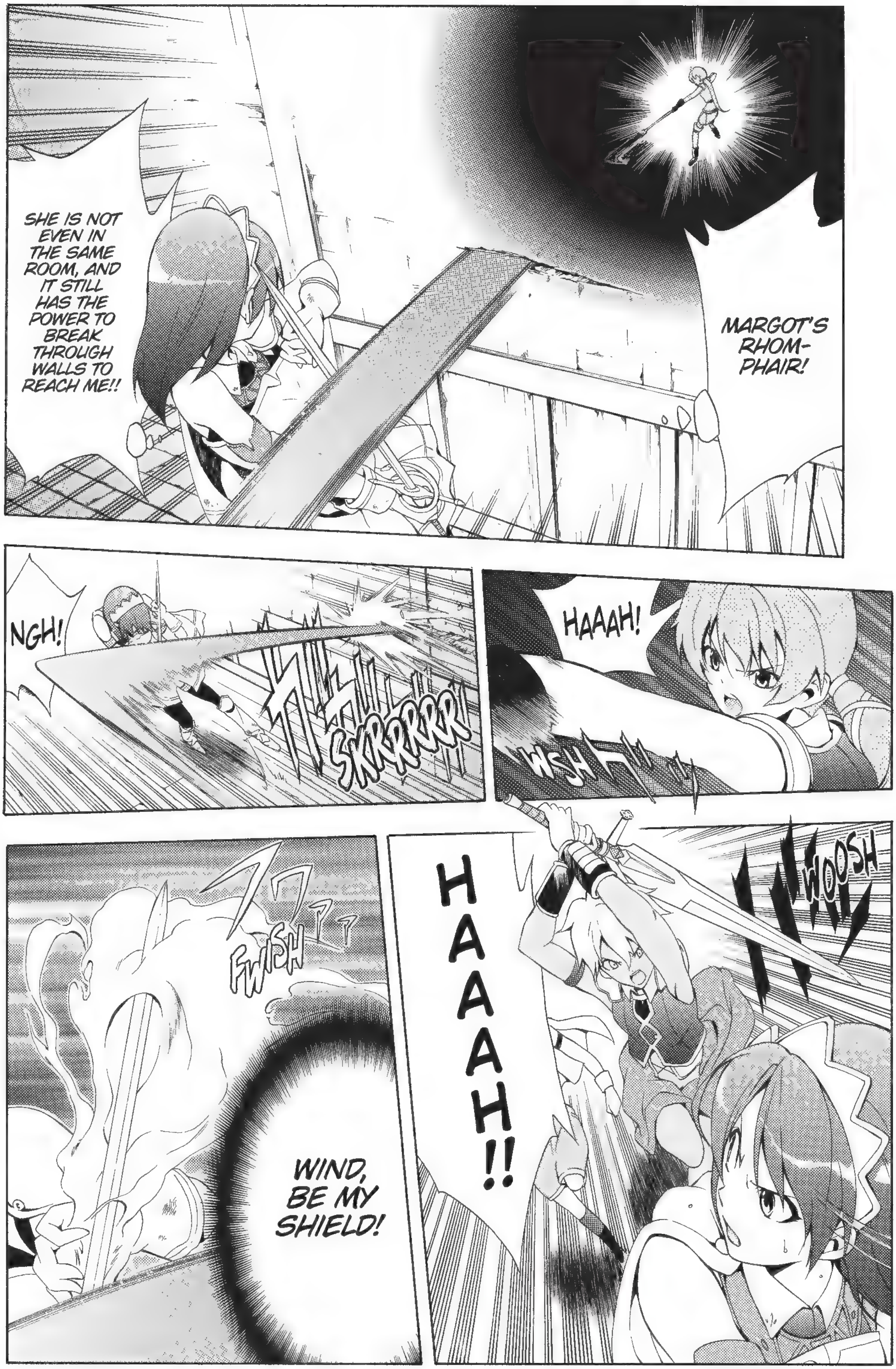

IF YOU ARE TRULY DETERMINED TO SEE THIS THROUGH...
THEN COME HERE AND TAKE ARIA FROM ME *BY FORCE!*
WHA ?!
YOU'RE CRAZY !!
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN WIN?!
WE HAVE ALREADY BEATEN YOU HANDILY ONCE!
HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?!
QUIET!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND YET?
カッ
FLASH
THEN LET ME SPELL IT OUT TO YOU IN PLAIN WORDS...

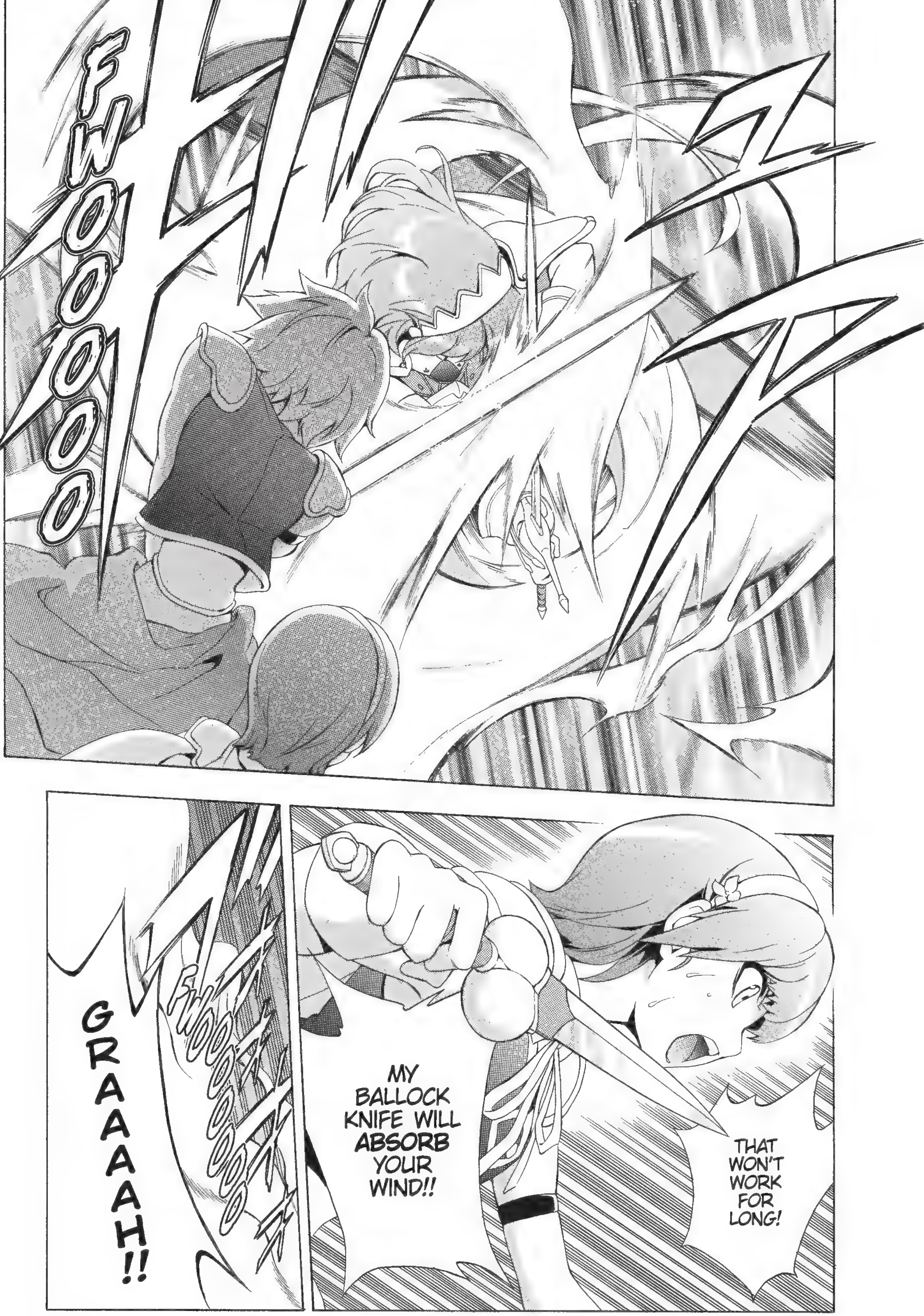

I'M STUBBORN!!!

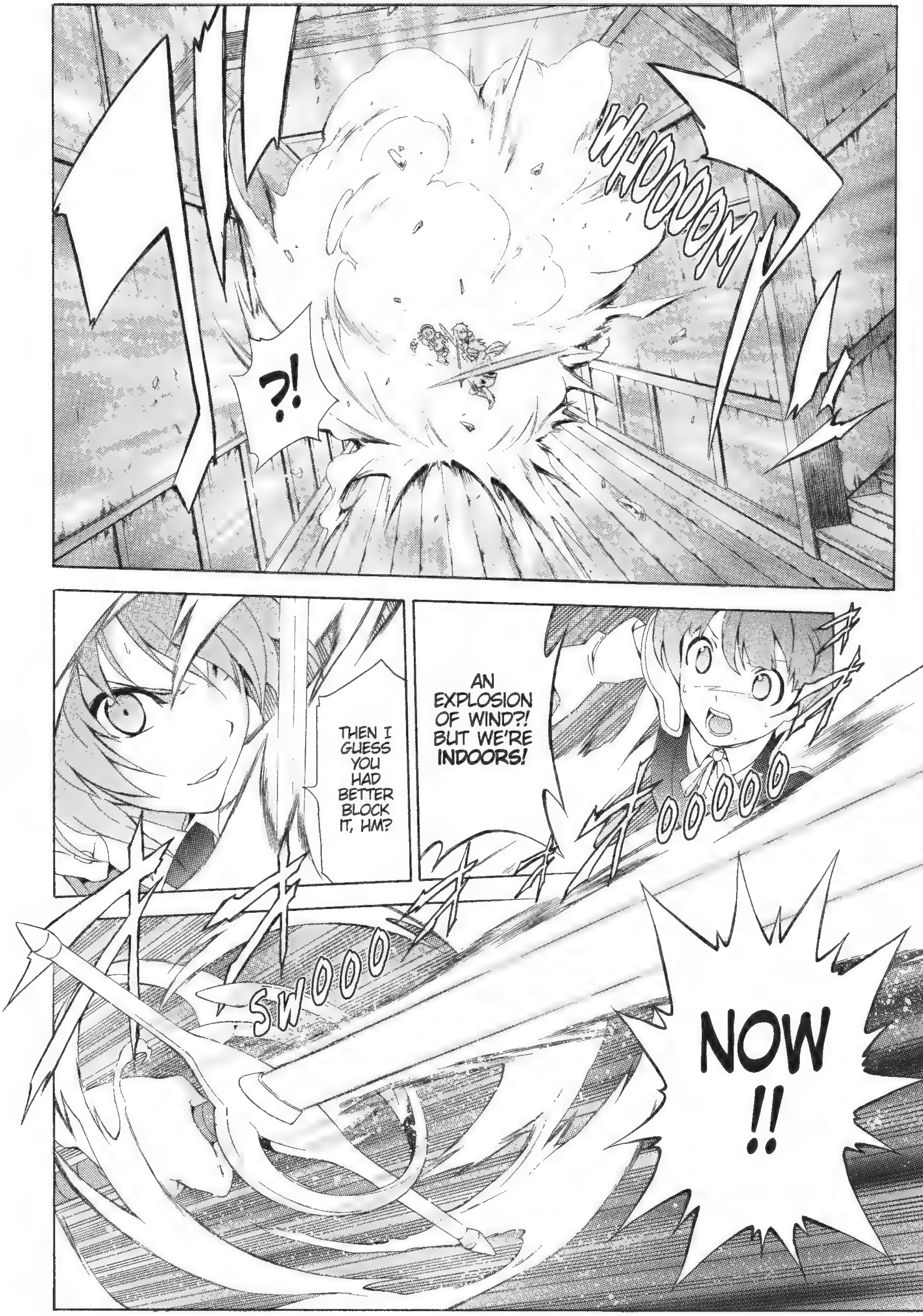

YOU'D BETTER NOT REGRET IT, THEN!
SHING
WSHH
WOOSH
FOR LADY CHARLOTTE'S SAKE...
WE WILL BEAT YOU INTO THE GROUND!!
DOOOOM
EN GARDE, CECILY CAMPBELL!!


THOOOOM
TMP TMP TMP
SLAM
WHUNCH


DAMN IT!
DORIS, CALM DOWN! ARE YOU TRYING TO BURY US ALL?!
PATTER
PATTER
COME BACK HERE!!
I NEED TO USE MY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS AREA'S LAYOUT.
USE THE HALLS AND ROOMS TO PUT THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE!
THUK
SWOOSH
?!


MARGOT'S RHOMPHAIR!
SHE IS NOT EVEN IN THE SAME ROOM, AND IT STILL HAS THE POWER TO BREAK THROUGH WALLS TO REACH ME!!
HAAAH!
WSH
NGH!
SKRRRRR!
WOOSH
HAAAAH!!
FWISH
WIND, BE MY SHIELD!

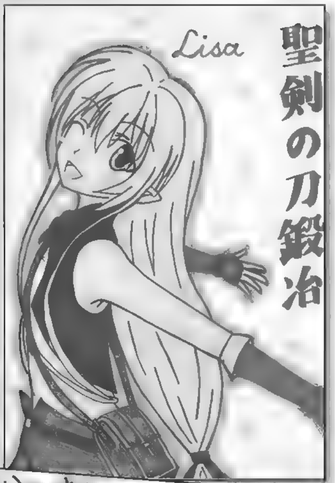

FWOOOOOO
THAT WON'T WORK FOR LONG!
MY BALLOCK KNIFE WILL ABSORB YOUR WIND!!
FWOOOOOOO
GRAAAAH!!


WHOOOOM
?!
AN EXPLOSION OF WIND?! BUT WE'RE INDOORS!
THEN I GUESS YOU HAD BETTER BLOCK IT, HM?
OOOOO
SWOOO
NOW!!

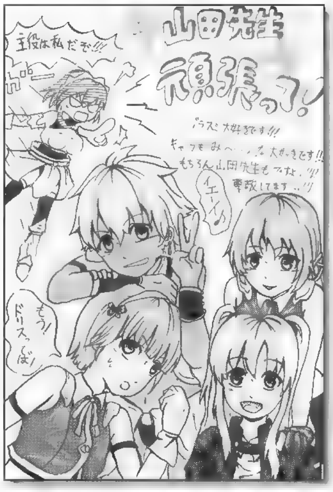
Margot

アトリエ
工房リーザ
atelier Liza BRANCH OFFICE III

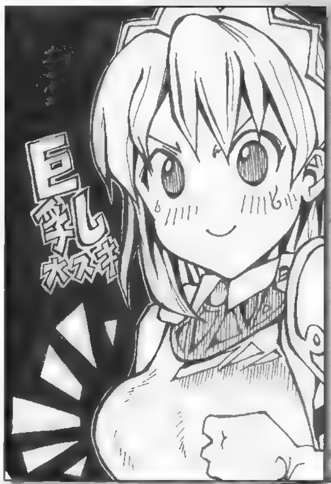
These are all amazing!


Lisa
聖剣の刀鍛冶

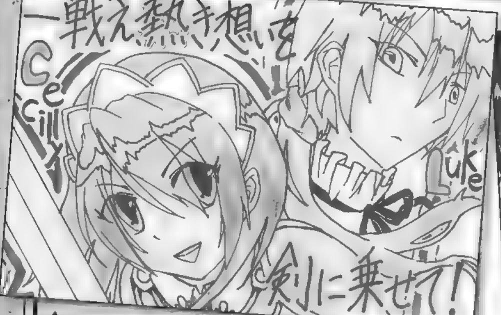
↑Fukuoka, Noyuki


山田先生 頑張って!
主役は私だぞ!!!
ボー
バラスも大好きです!!
キャラもみ～んな大好きです!!
もちろん山田先生もですよ!!
尊敬してます…!!
イエーイ♪
もう!
ドリスっぱ!

↑Miyazaki, Ahri

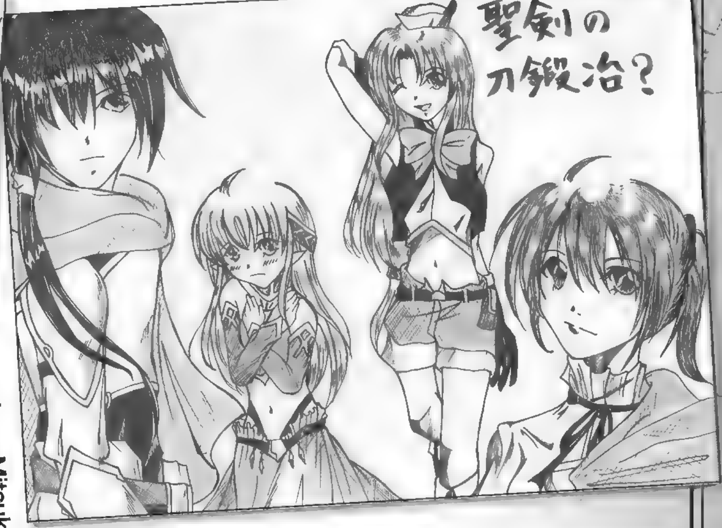


↑Kagawa, Kama


戦え熱き想いを
Cecily
Luke
剣に乗せて!

↑Aichi, Kimiume

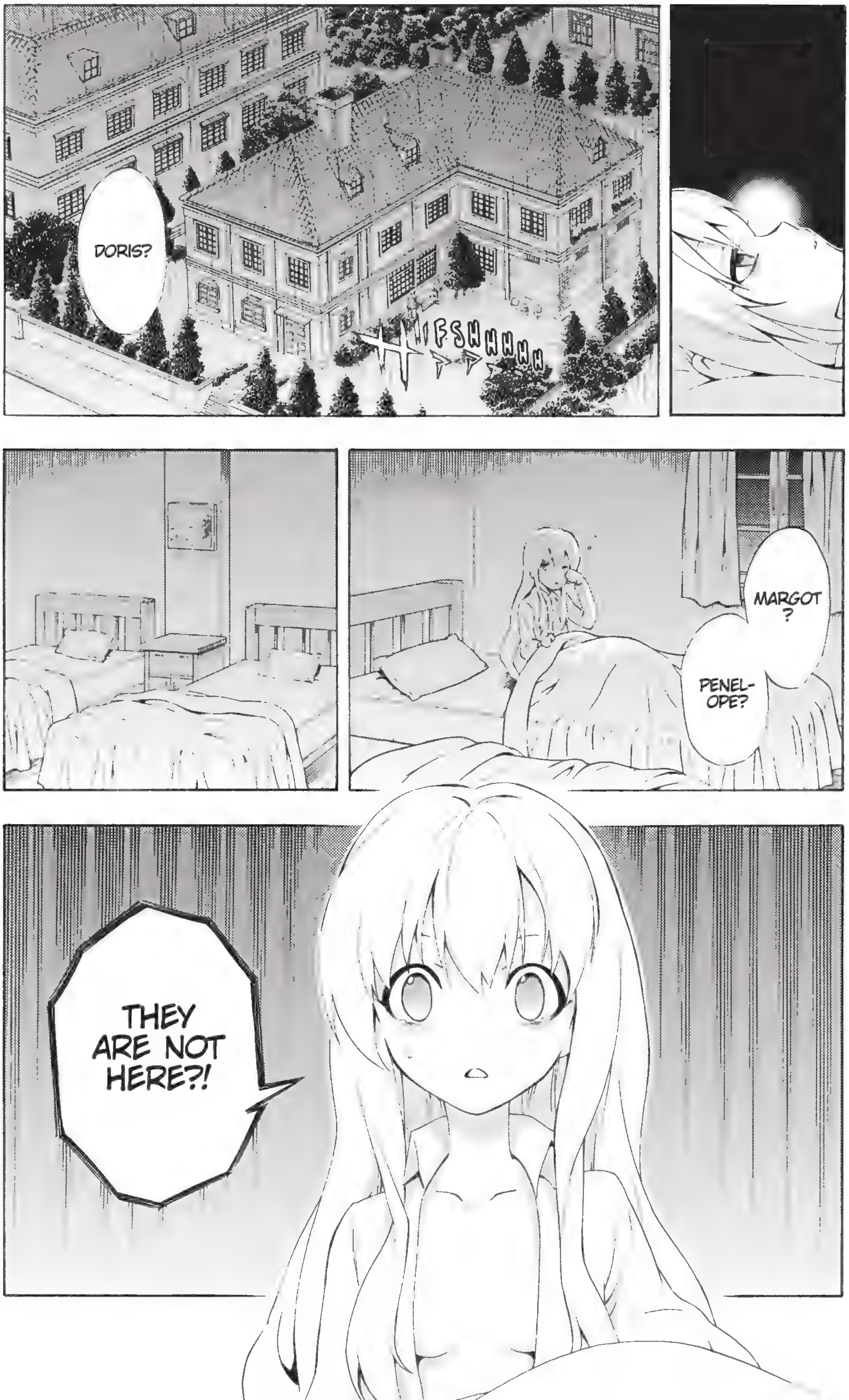
That one is actually two postcards together! It was a little embarrassing to switch outfits with Miss Aria, but I felt a little like a grown up, too.♪



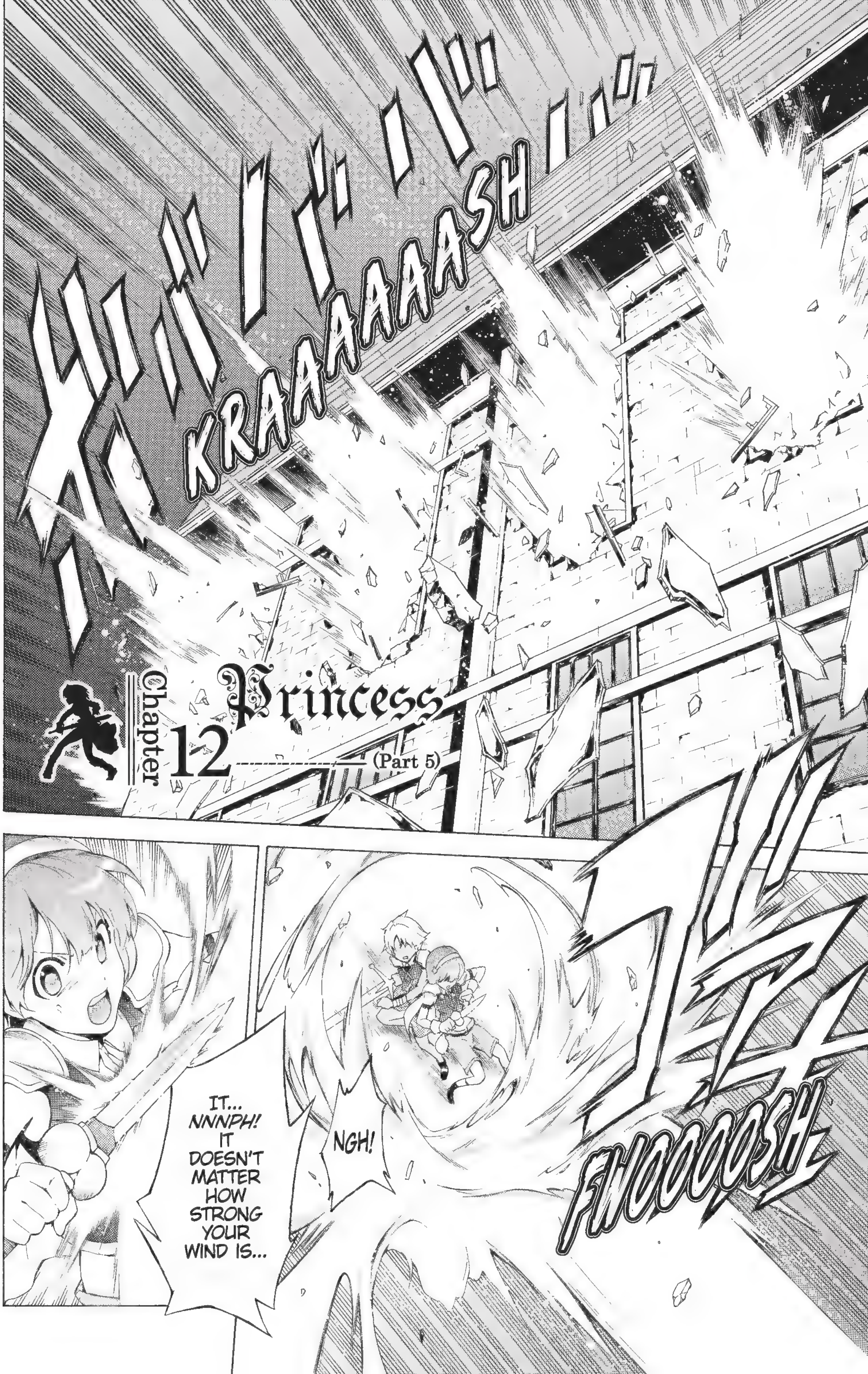
↑Tokyo, Mitsuki

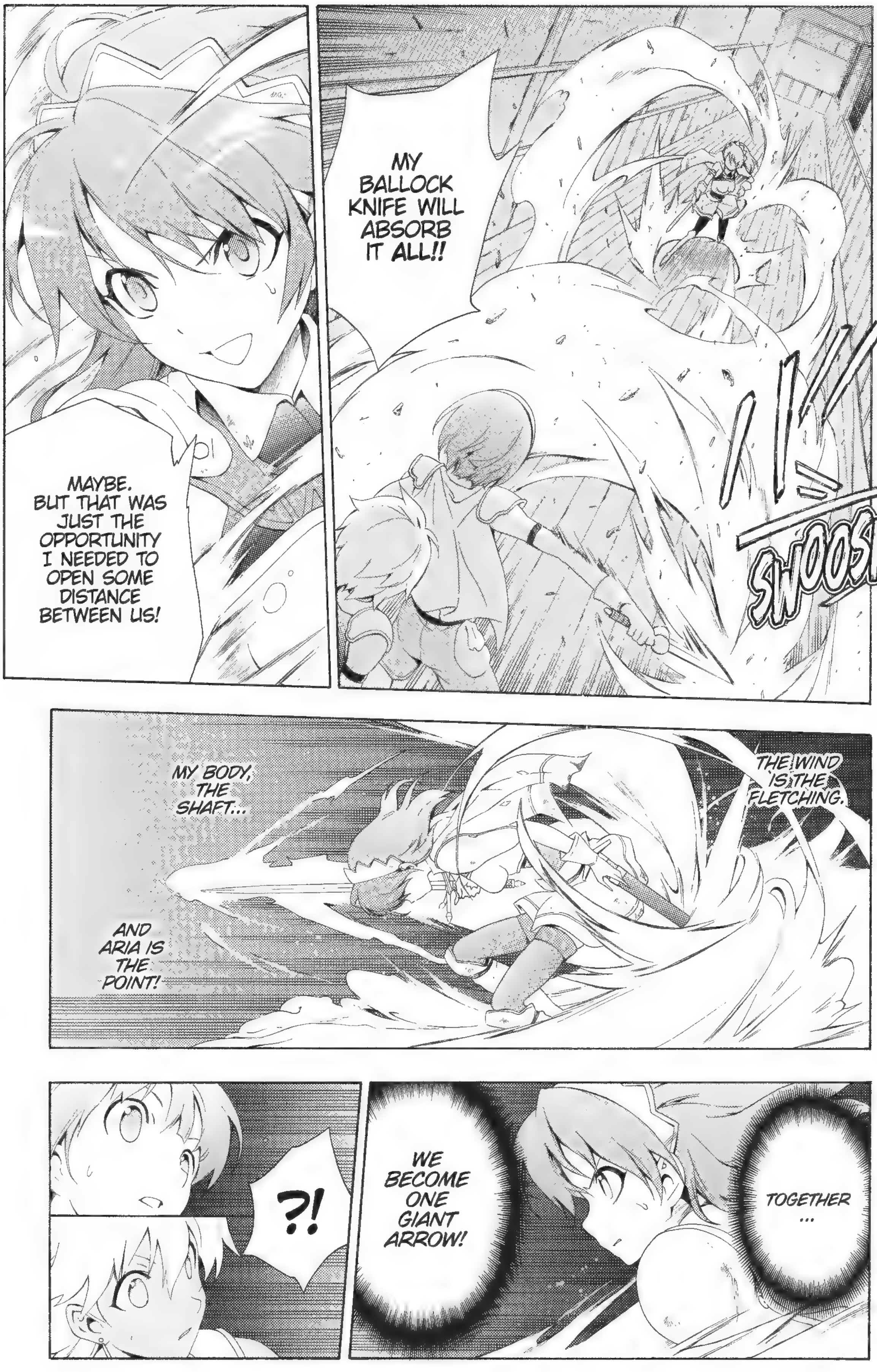
Thank you for all the wonderful postcards! Everyone who was displayed here will receive a personalized sketch from Yamada-sensei himself! I'm sorry to all the people who didn't have their postcard displayed, but we will have another contest, so keep on sending them in!

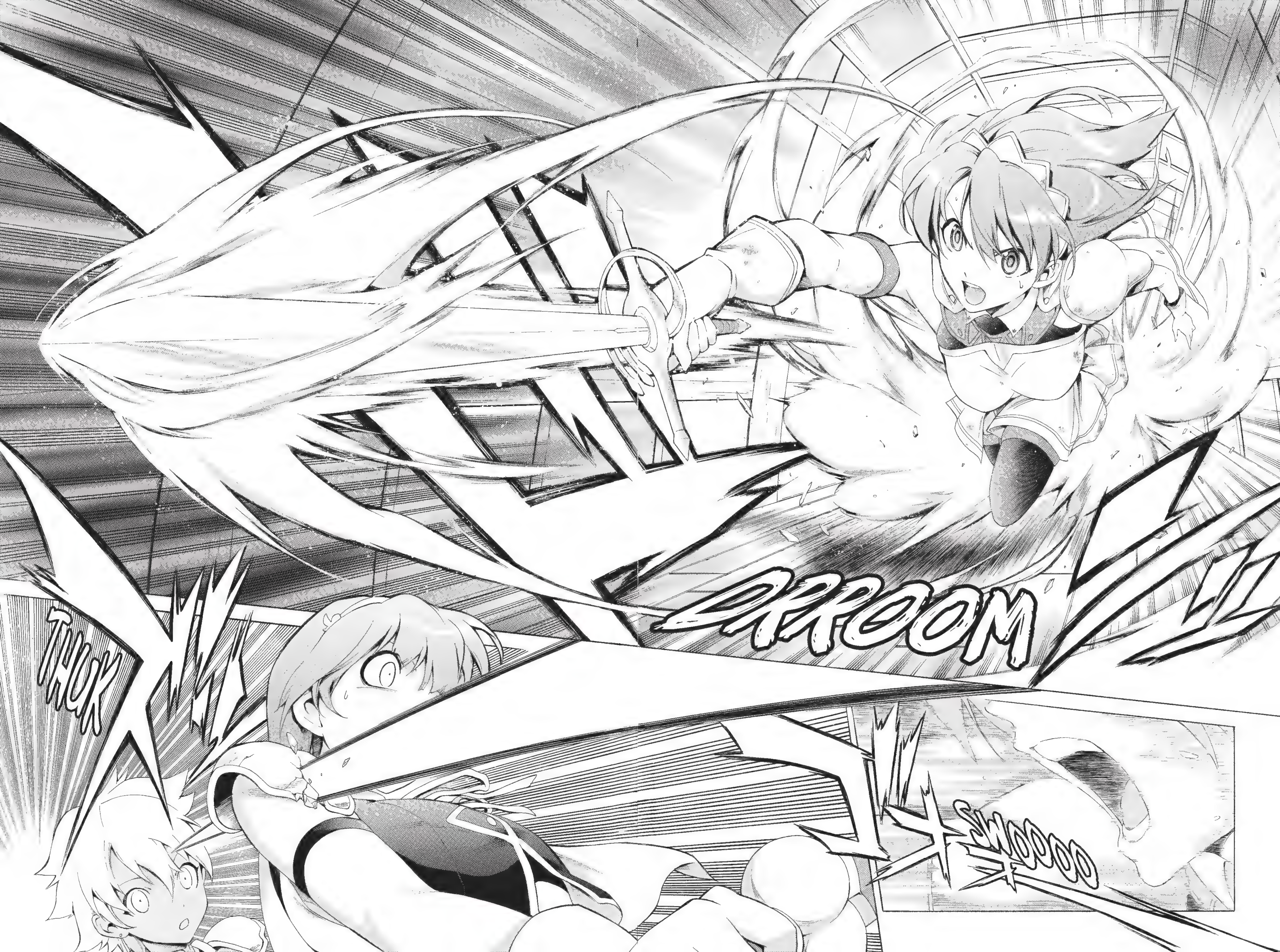
Note: Fan Art contest only open to residents in Japan.

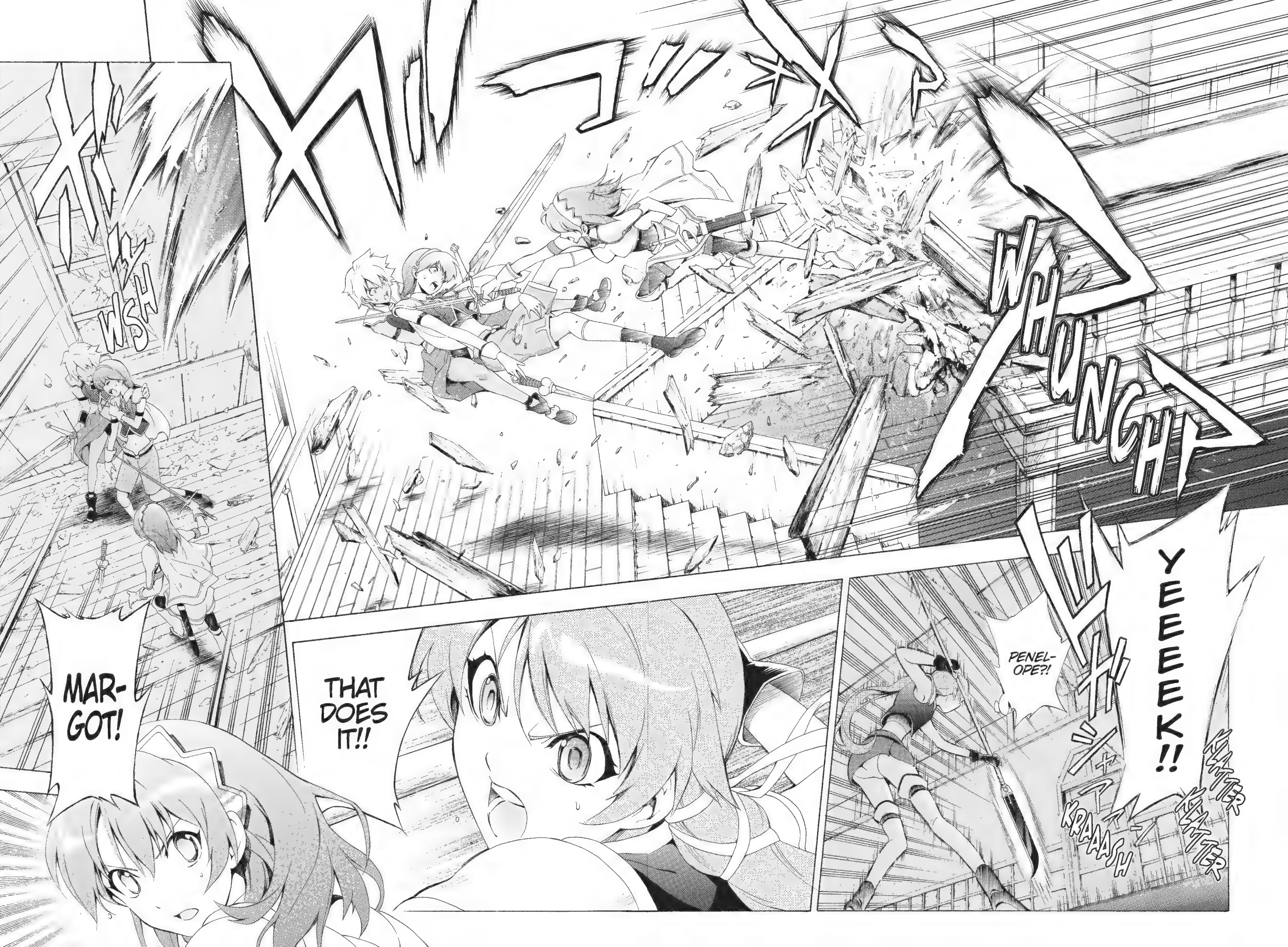

DORIS?
FSHHHHH
MARGOT?
PENELOPE?
THEY ARE NOT HERE?!

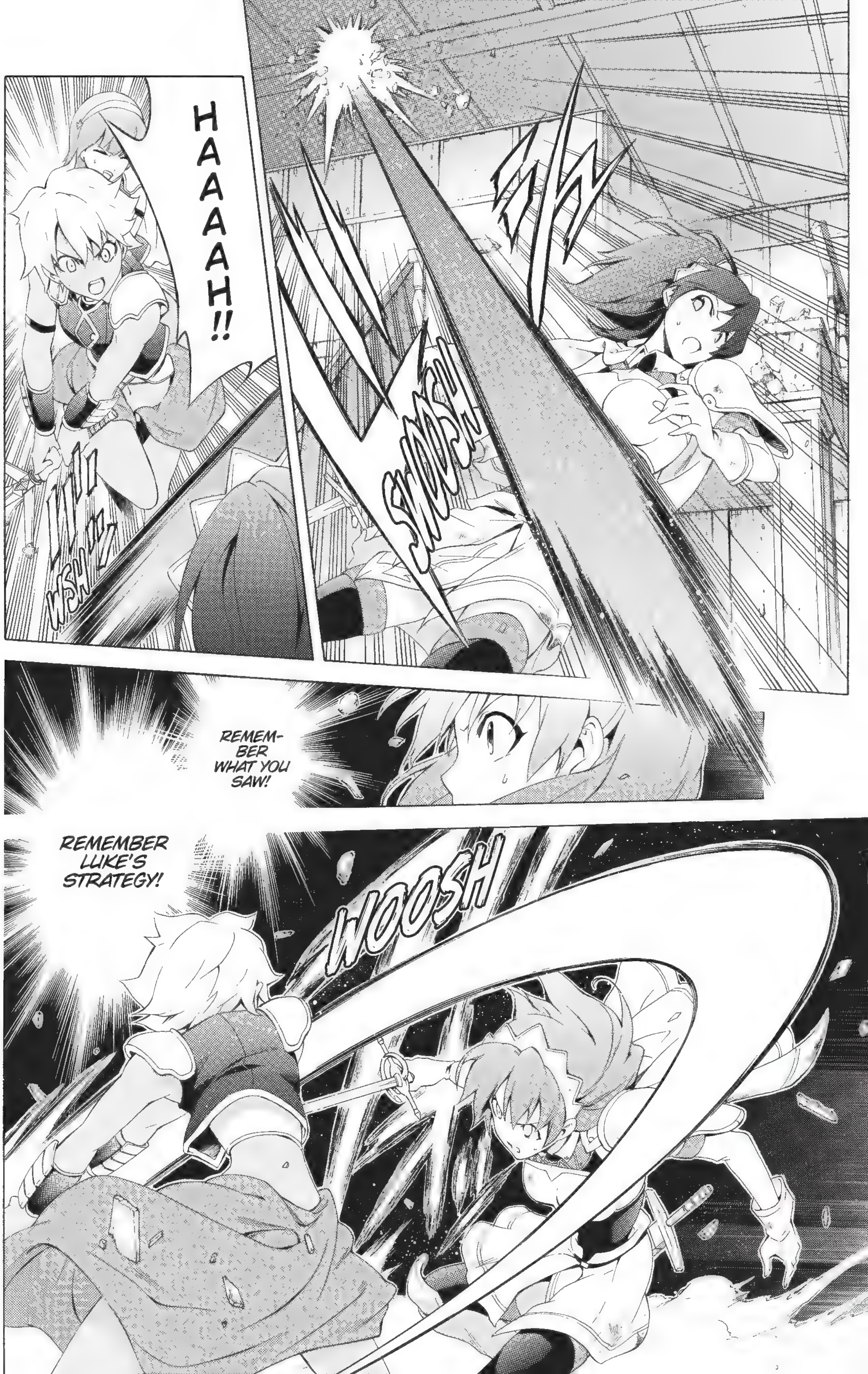
Chapter 12 Princess (Part 5)

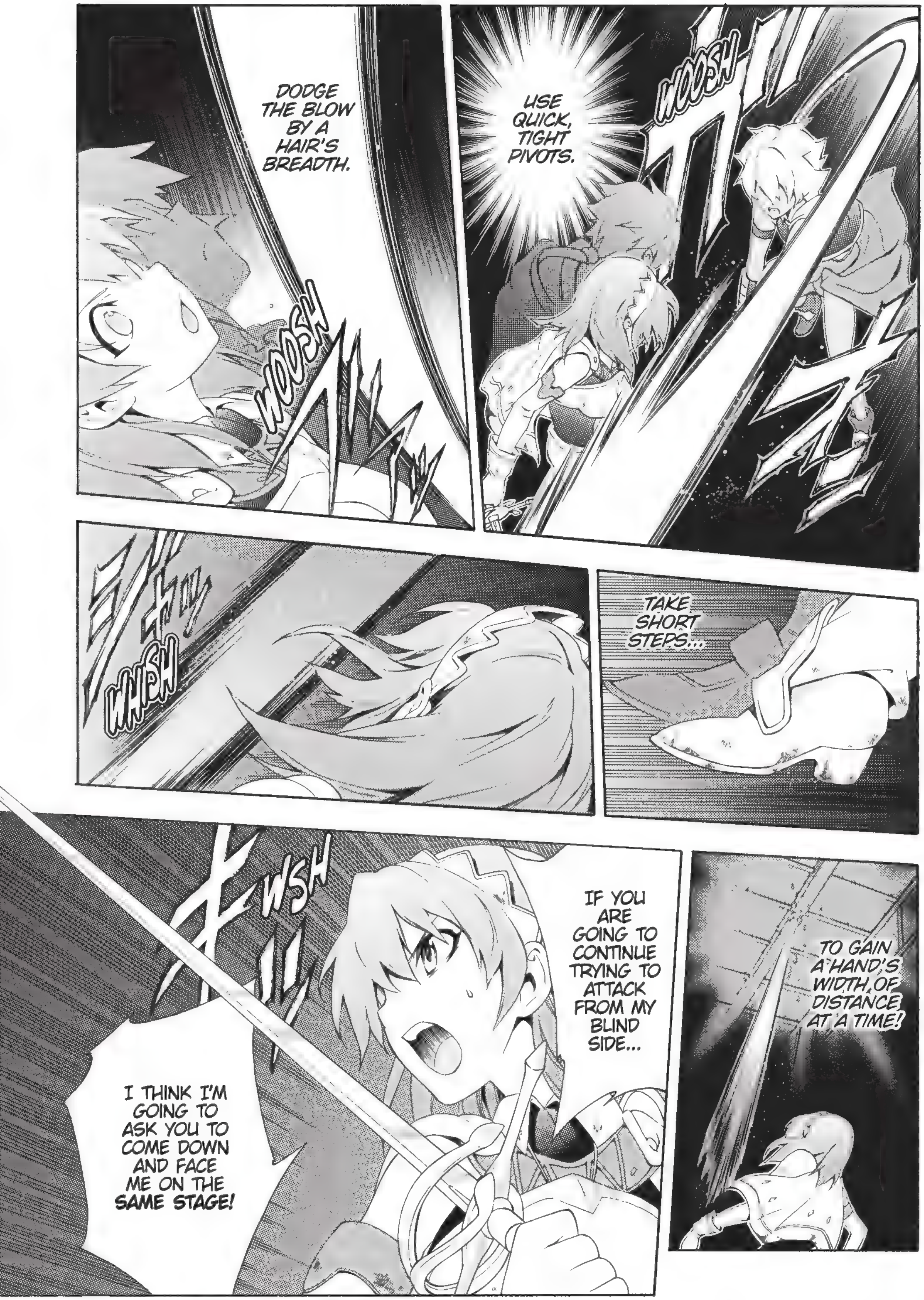

KRAAAAAASH
FWOOOOSH
NGH!
IT... *NNNPH!* IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW STRONG YOUR WIND IS...

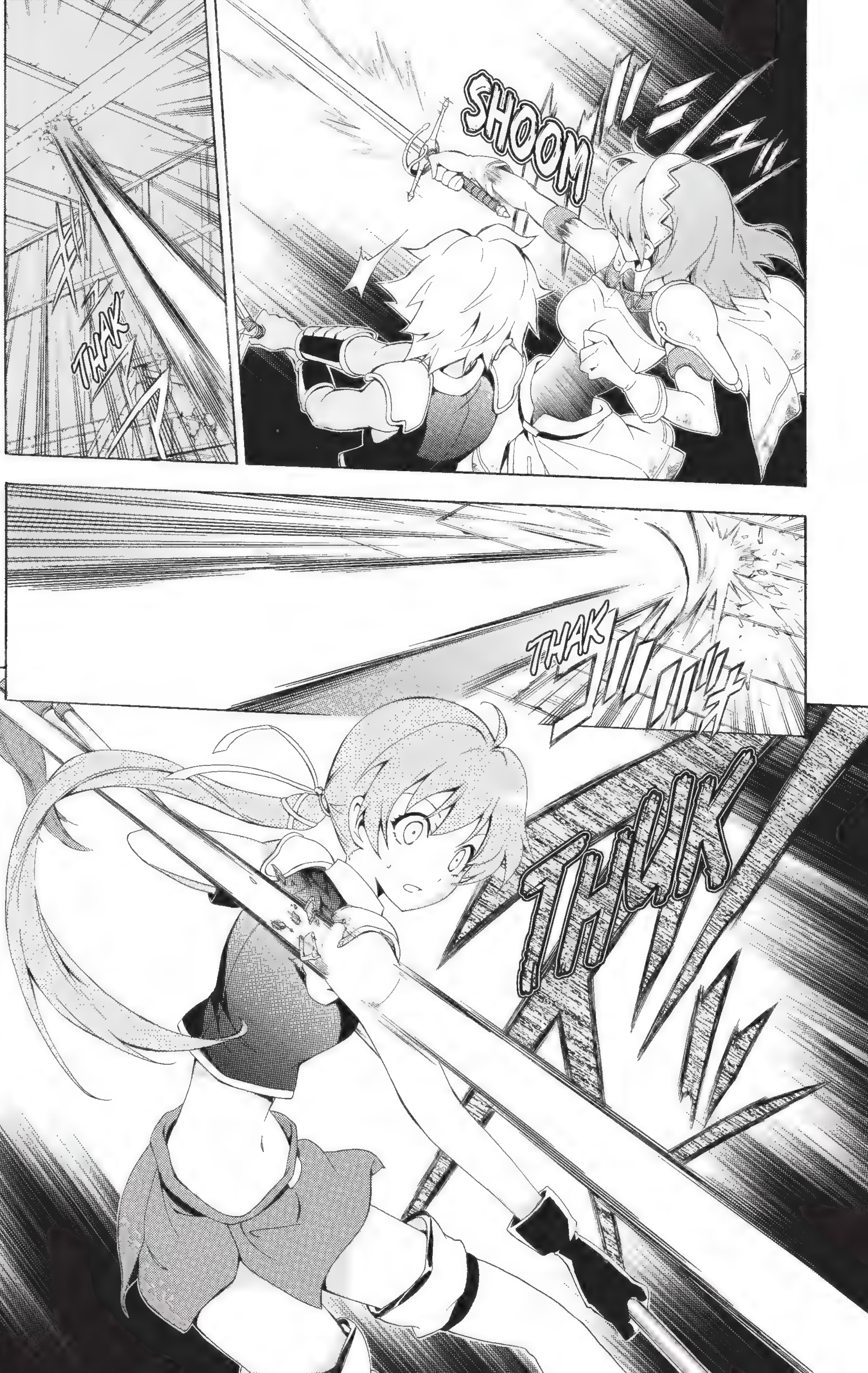

MY BALLOCK KNIFE WILL ABSORB IT ALL!!
SWOOSH
MAYBE. BUT THAT WAS JUST THE OPPORTUNITY I NEEDED TO OPEN SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US!
MY BODY, THE SHAFT...
THE WIND IS THE FLETCHING.
AND ARIA IS THE POINT!
TOGETHER ...
WE BECOME ONE GIANT ARROW!
?!

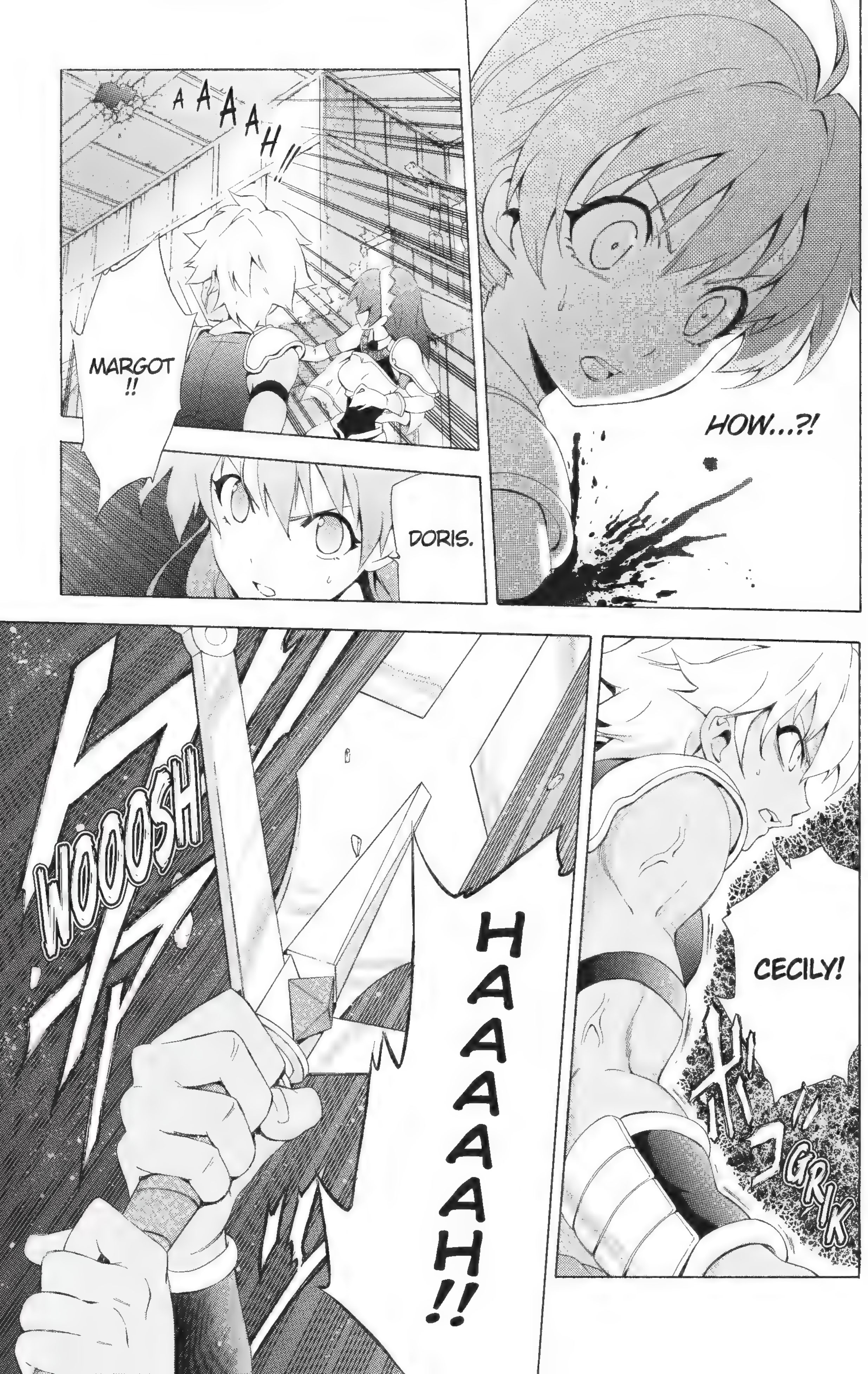

DRROOM
THUK
SWOOOOO

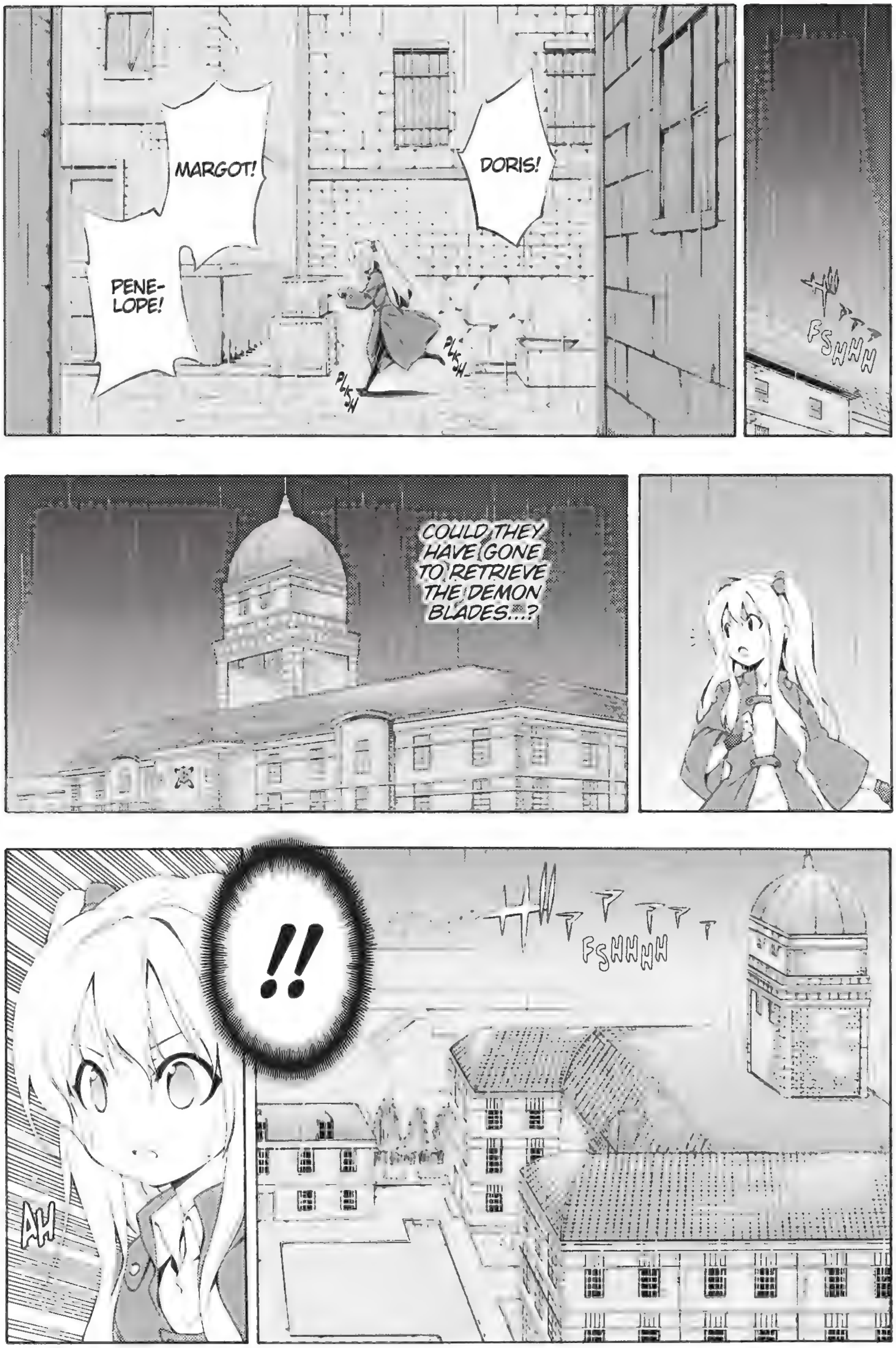

WHUNCH!
WSH
YEEEEEK!!
PENELOPE?!
KLATTER KLATTER
KRAAASH
THAT DOES IT!!
MAR-GOT!

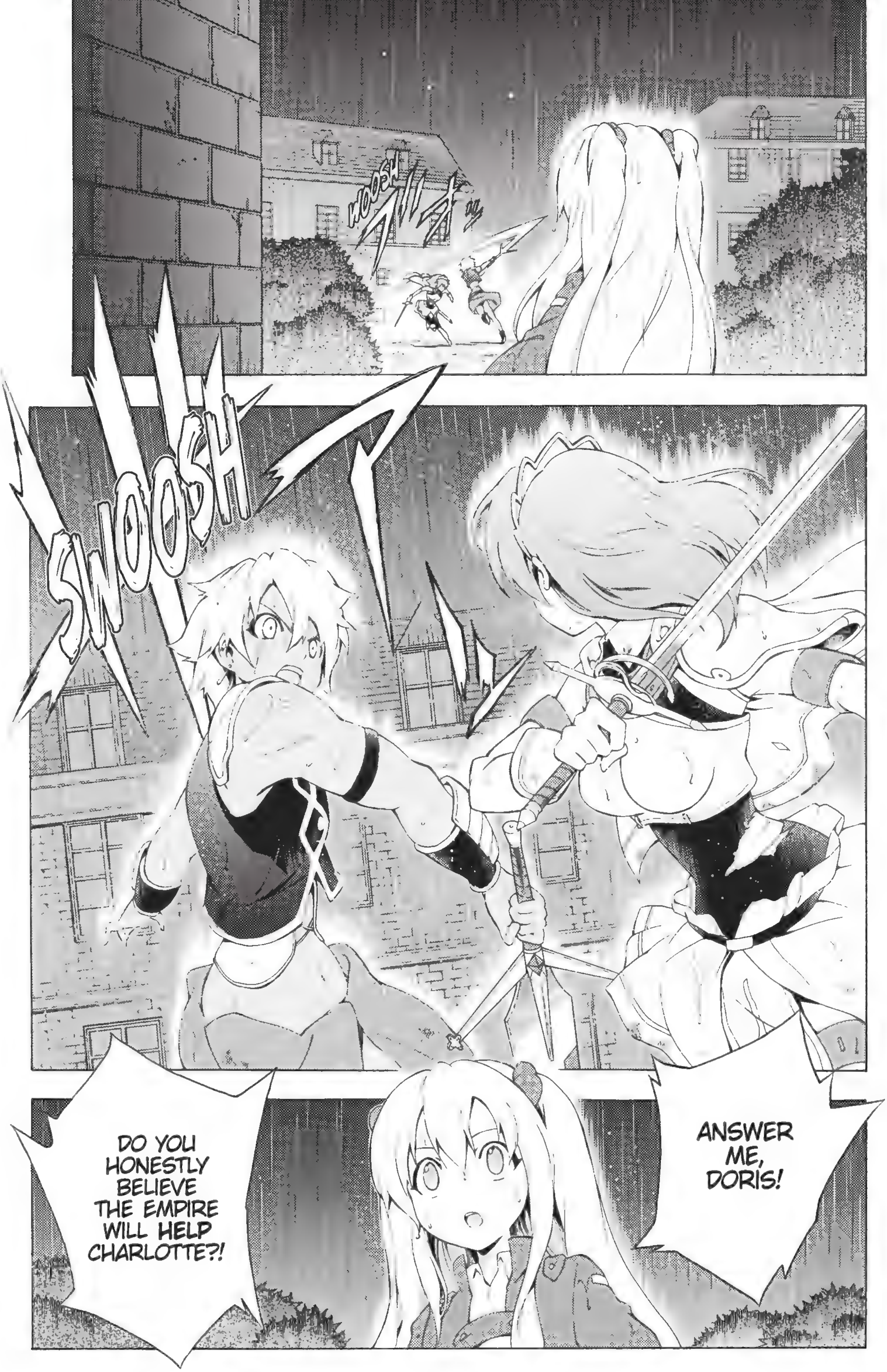

SWOOSH
HAAAAAAH!!
WSH
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAW!
REMEMBER LUKE'S STRATEGY!
WOOSH

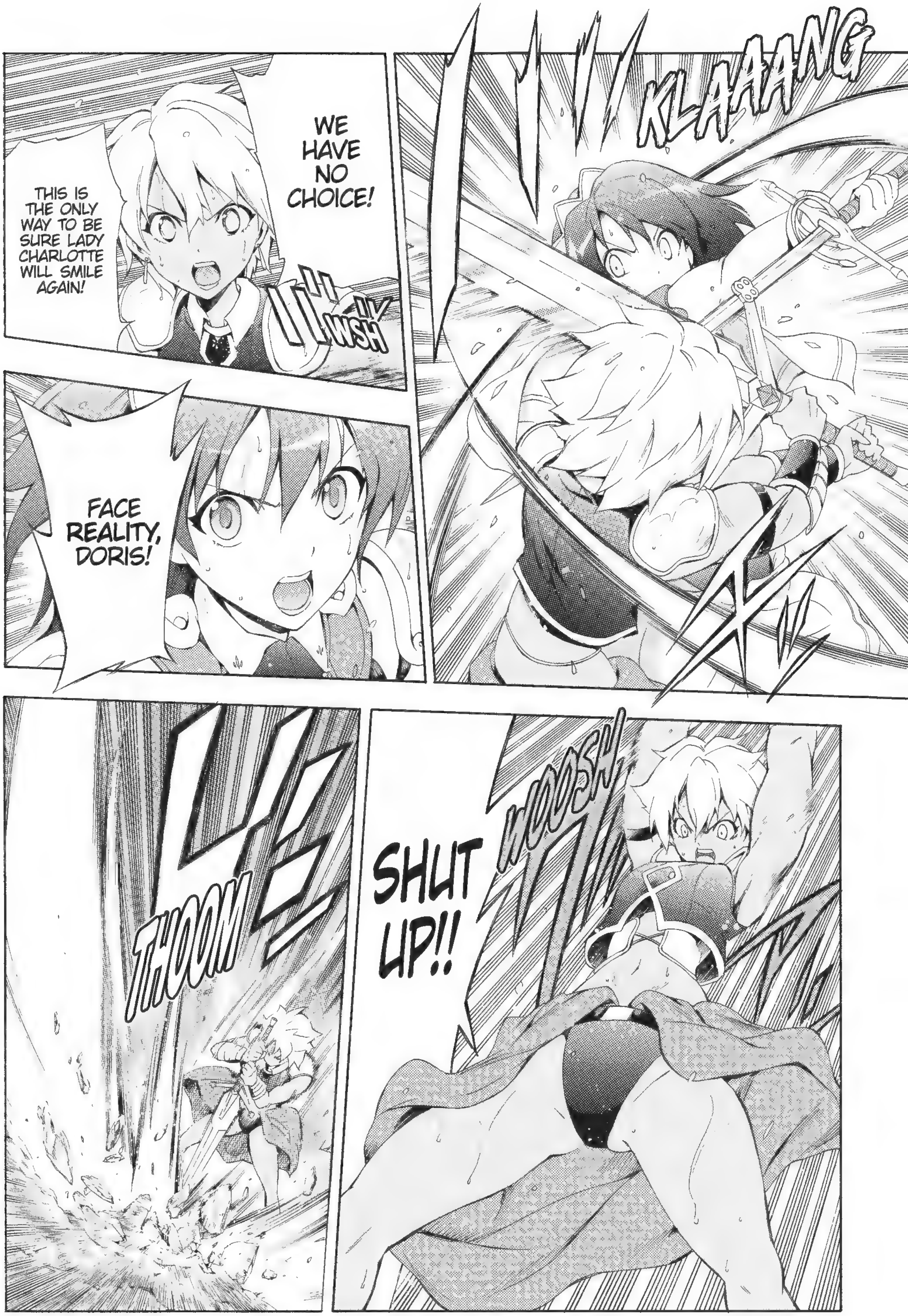

WOOSH
USE QUICK, TIGHT PIVOTS.
DODGE THE BLOW BY A HAIR'S BREADTH.
WOOSH
TAKE SHORT STEPS...
WHISH
TO GAIN A HAND'S WIDTH OF DISTANCE AT A TIME!
IF YOU ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TRYING TO ATTACK FROM MY BLIND SIDE...
WSH
I THINK I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO COME DOWN AND FACE ME ON THE SAME STAGE!

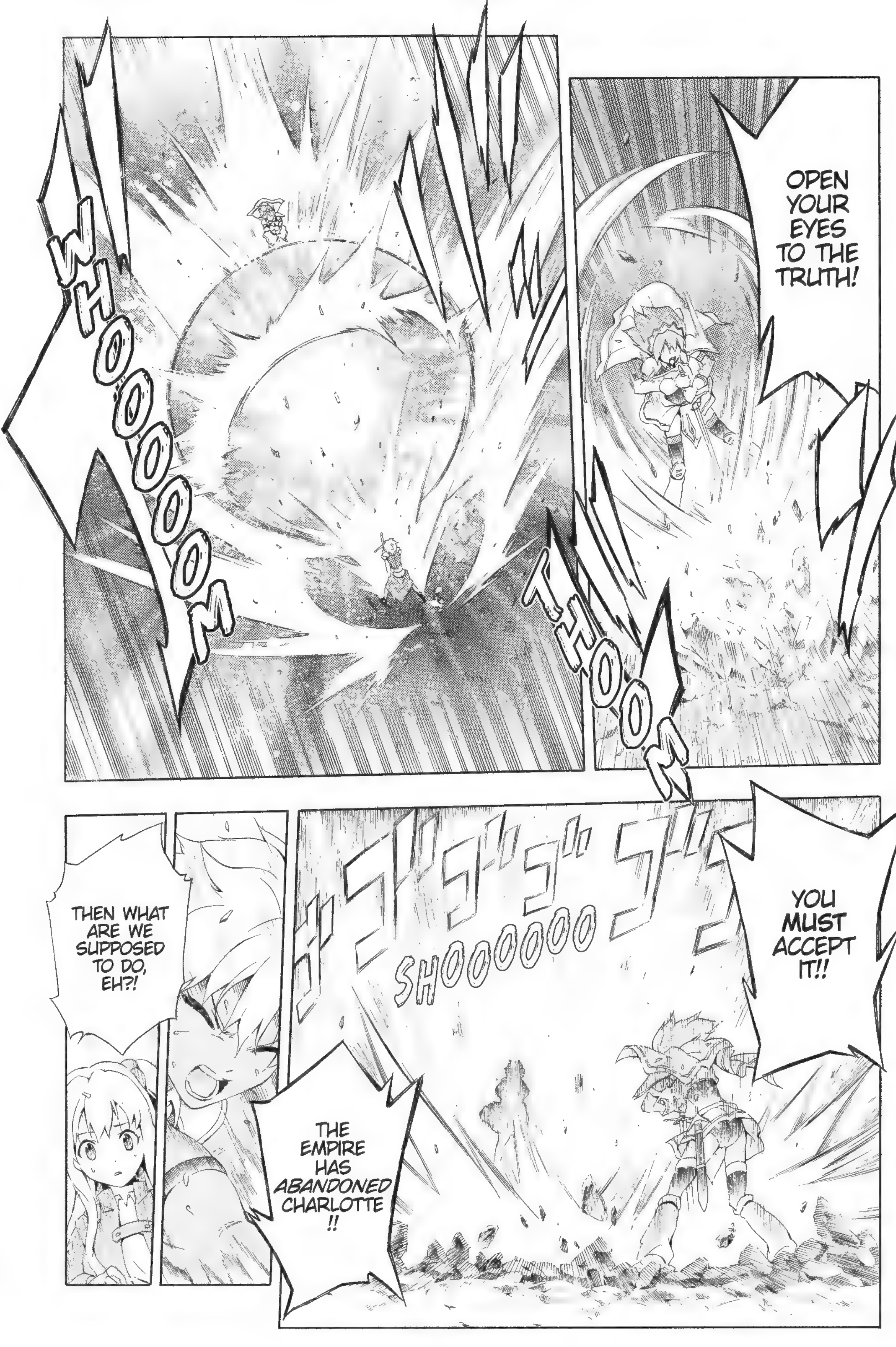

SHOOM
THAK
THAK
THUK

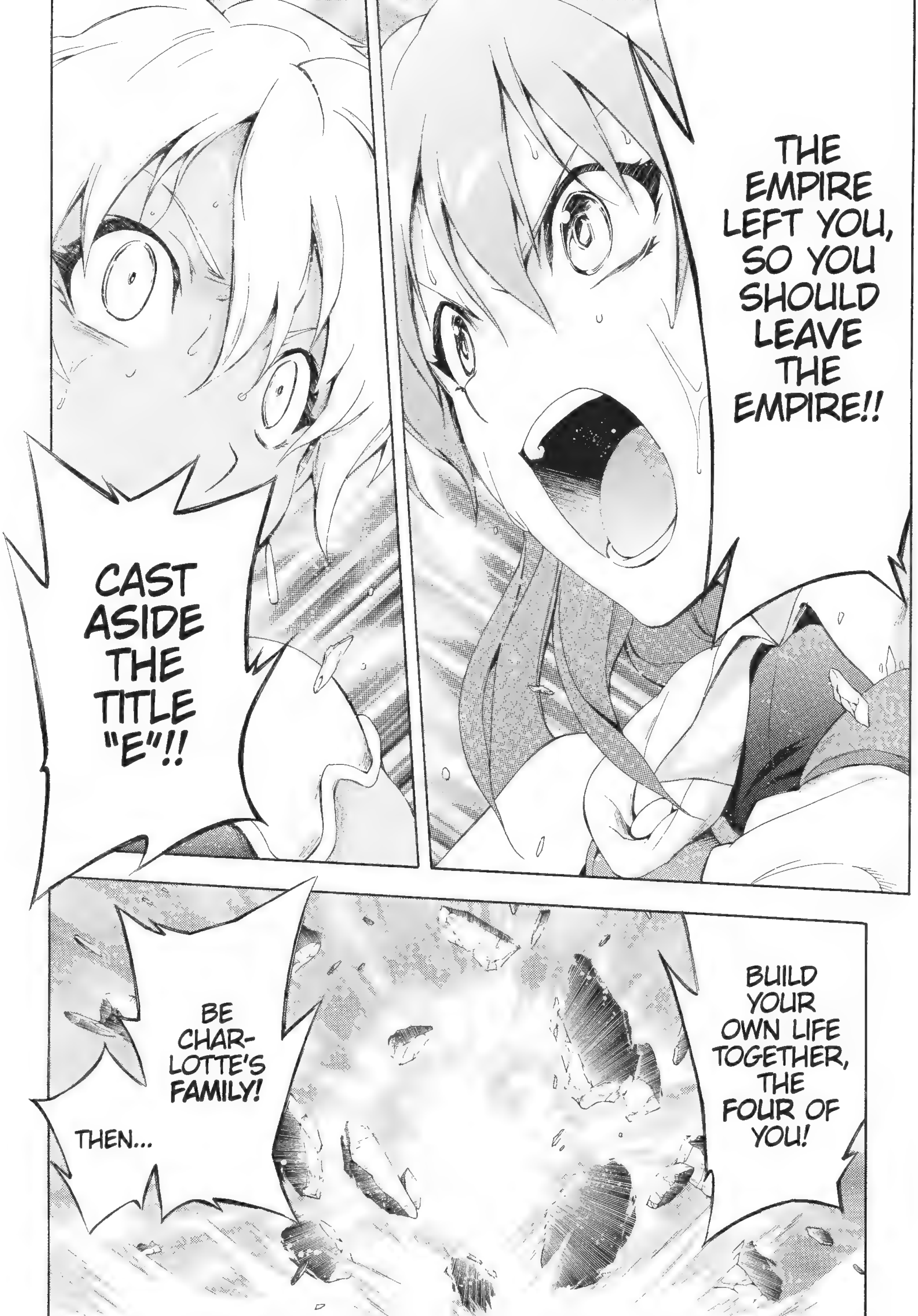

HOW...?!
AAAAH!!
MARGOT!!
DORIS.
CECILY!
GRIK
WOOOSH
HAAAAAAAH!!

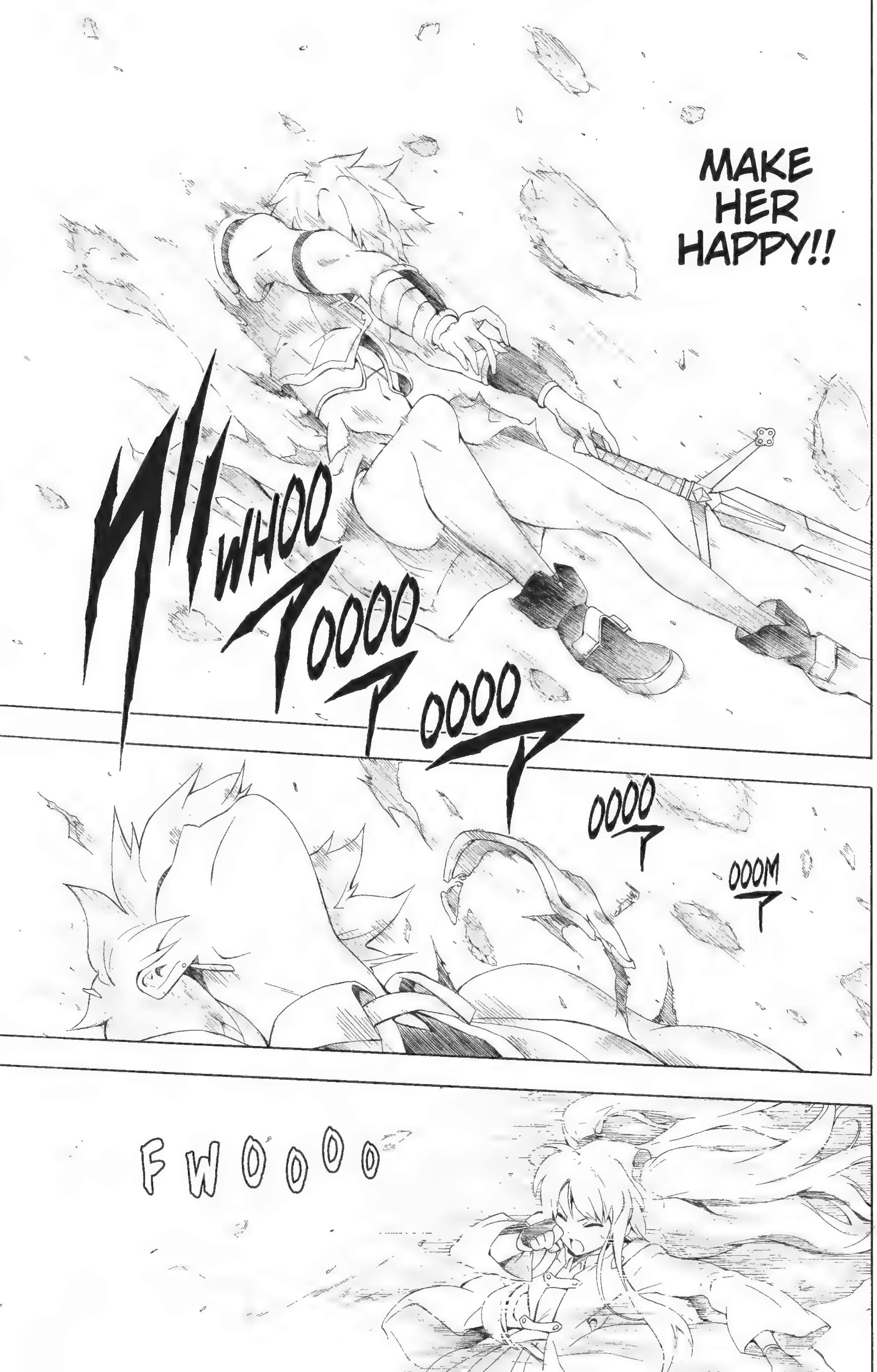

FSHHH
DORIS!
MARGOT!
PENELOPE!
PLISH
PLISH
COULD THEY HAVE GONE TO RETRIEVE THE DEMON BLADES...?
FSHHHH
!!
AH

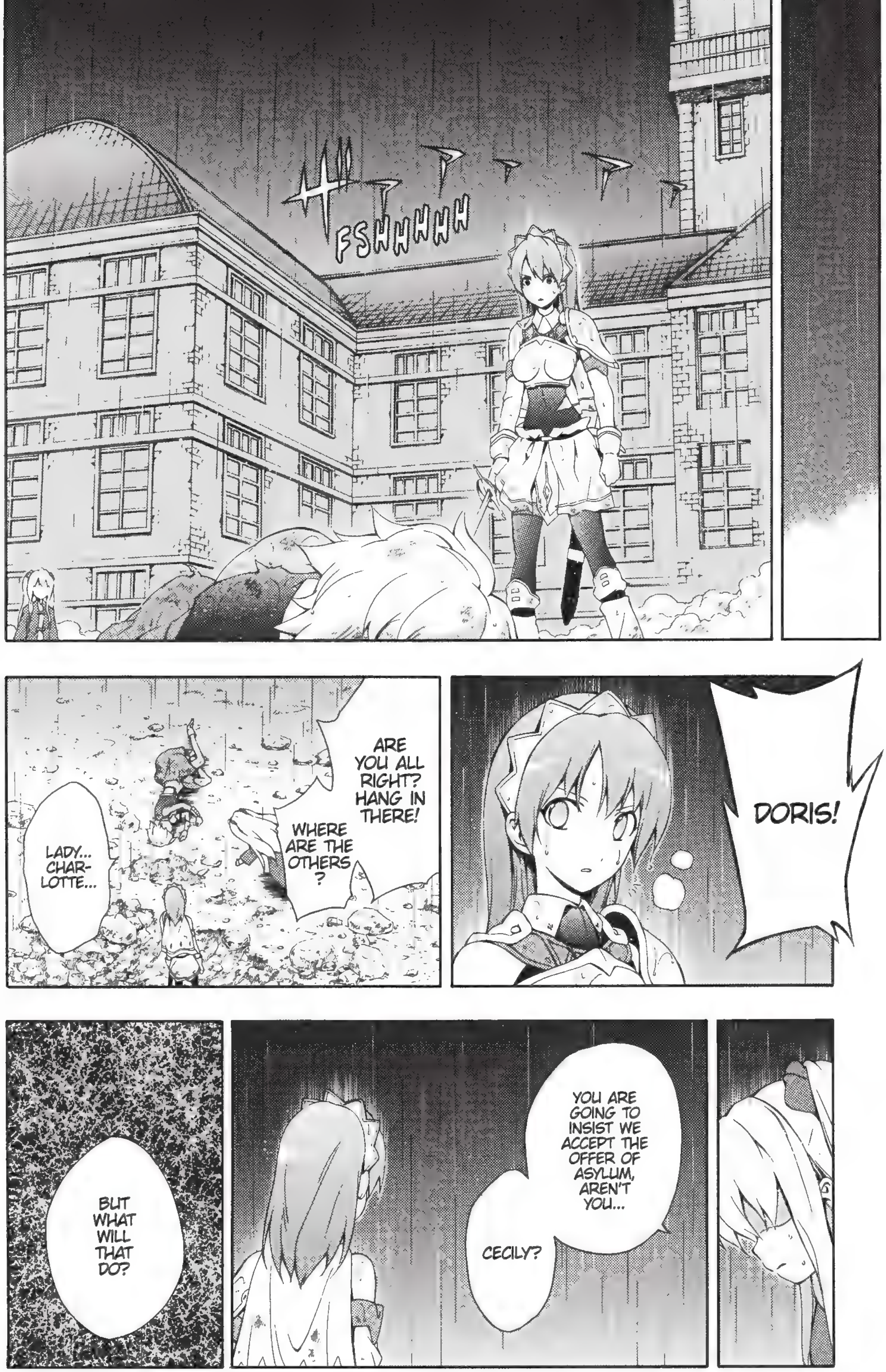

WOOSH
SWOOSH
ANSWER ME, DORIS!
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THE EMPIRE WILL HELP CHARLOTTE?!

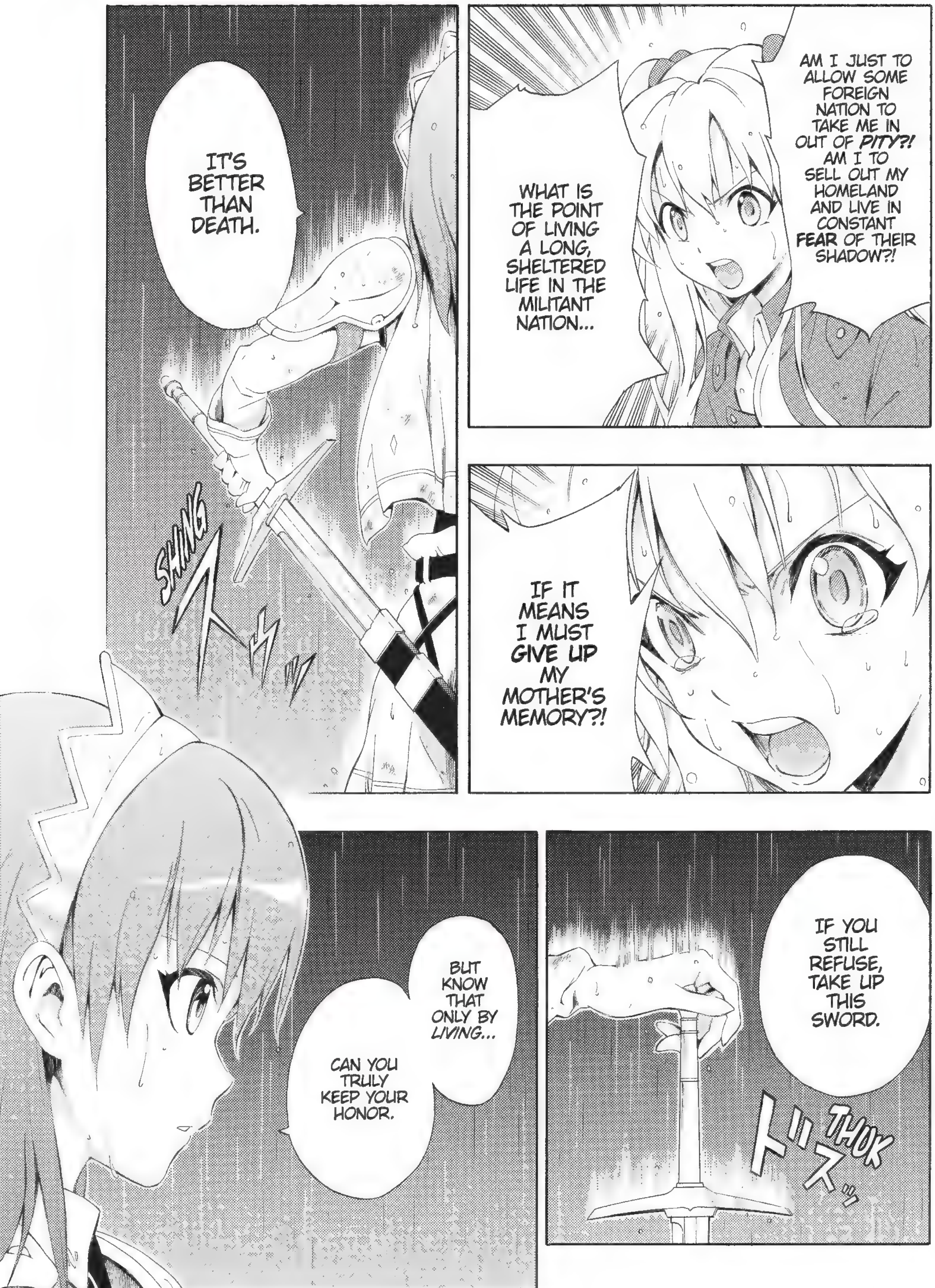

KLAAANG
WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE LADY CHARLOTTE WILL SMILE AGAIN!
WSH
FACE REALITY, DORIS!
WOOSH
SHUT UP!!
THOOM

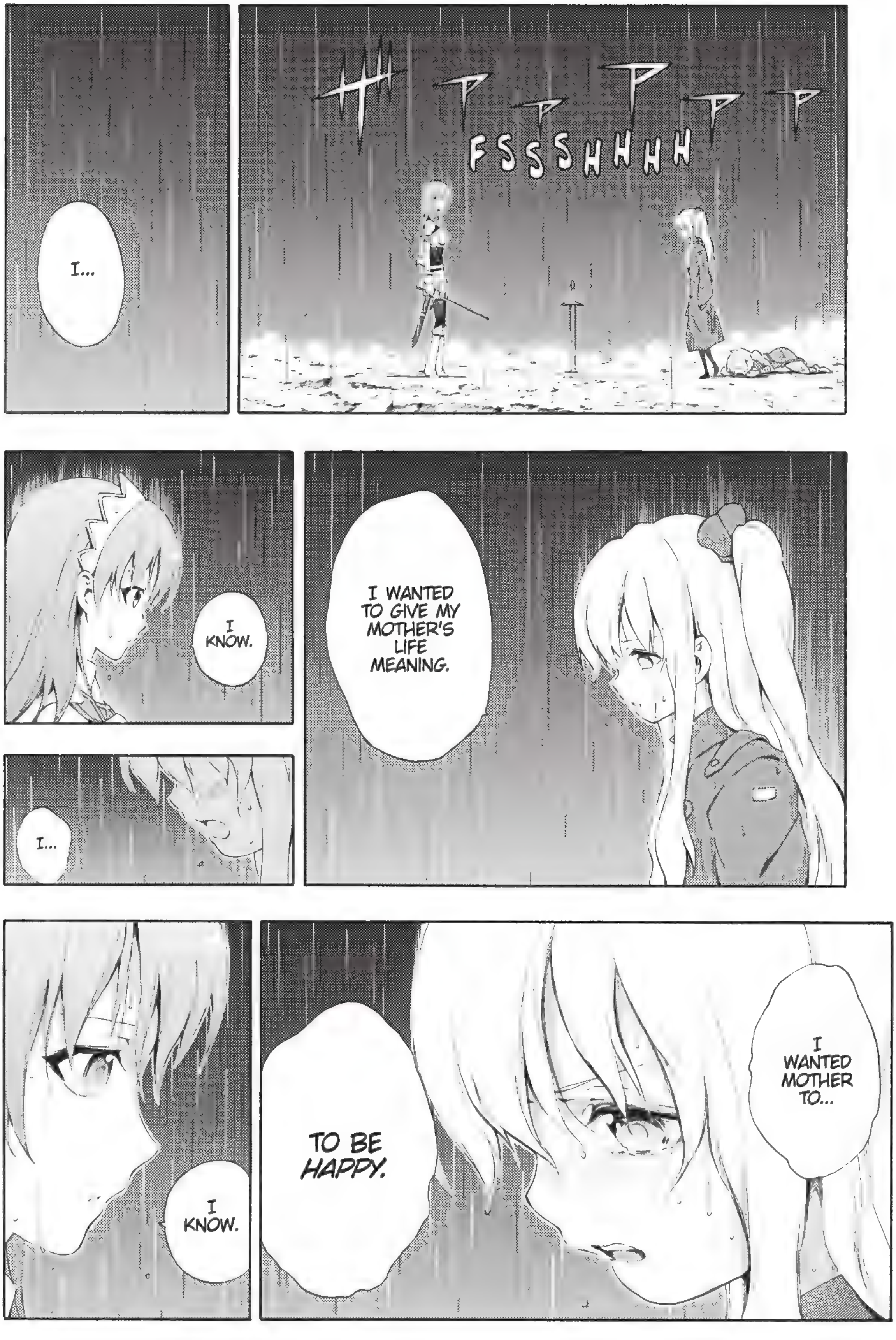

OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE TRUTH!
THOOOM
WHOOOOOOOM
YOU MUST ACCEPT IT!!
SHOOOOOO
THE EMPIRE HAS *ABANDONED* CHARLOTTE!!
THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, EH?!

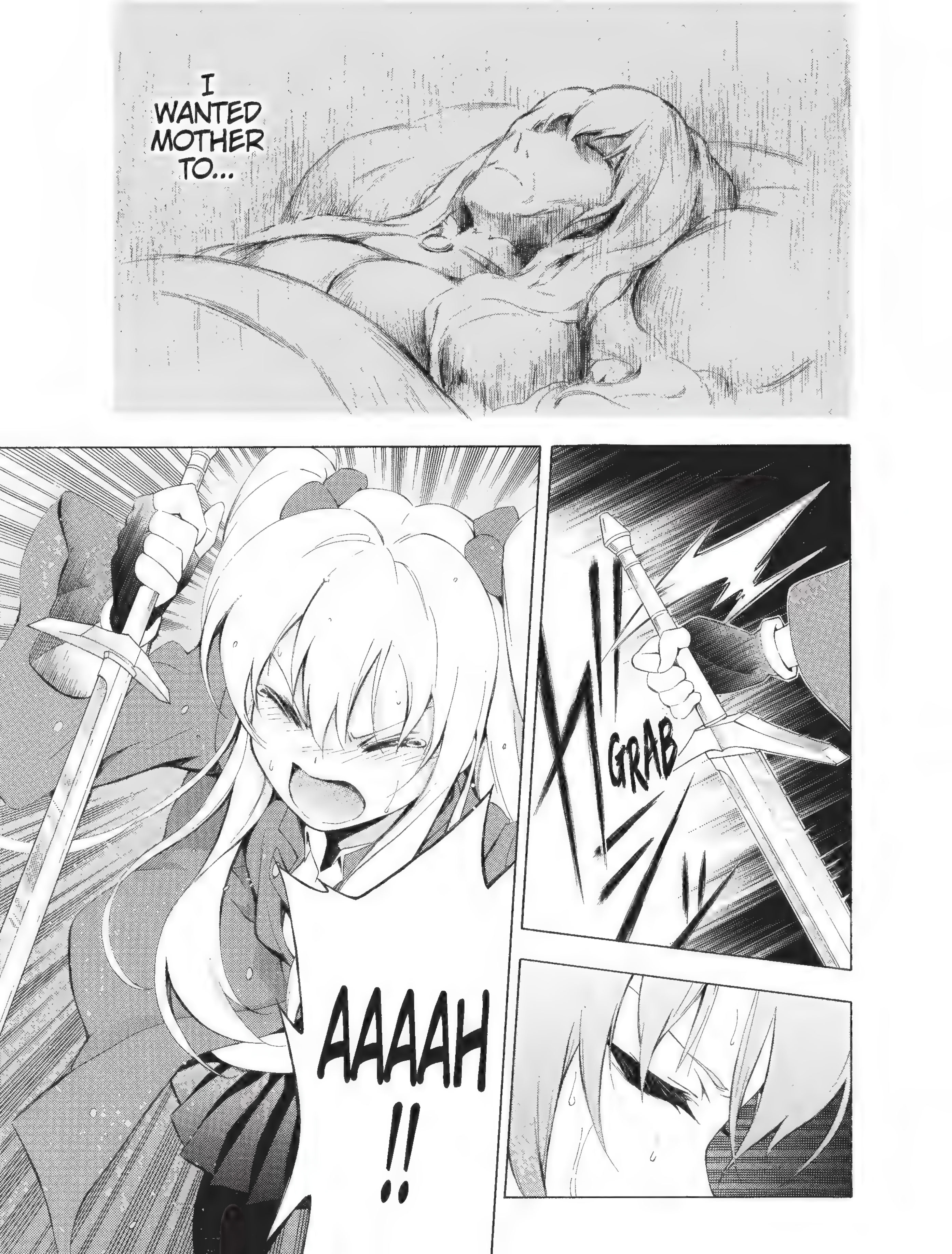

THE EMPIRE LEFT YOU, SO YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE EMPIRE!!
CAST ASIDE THE TITLE "E"!!
BUILD YOUR OWN LIFE TOGETHER, THE FOUR OF YOU!
BE CHARLOTTE'S FAMILY!
THEN...

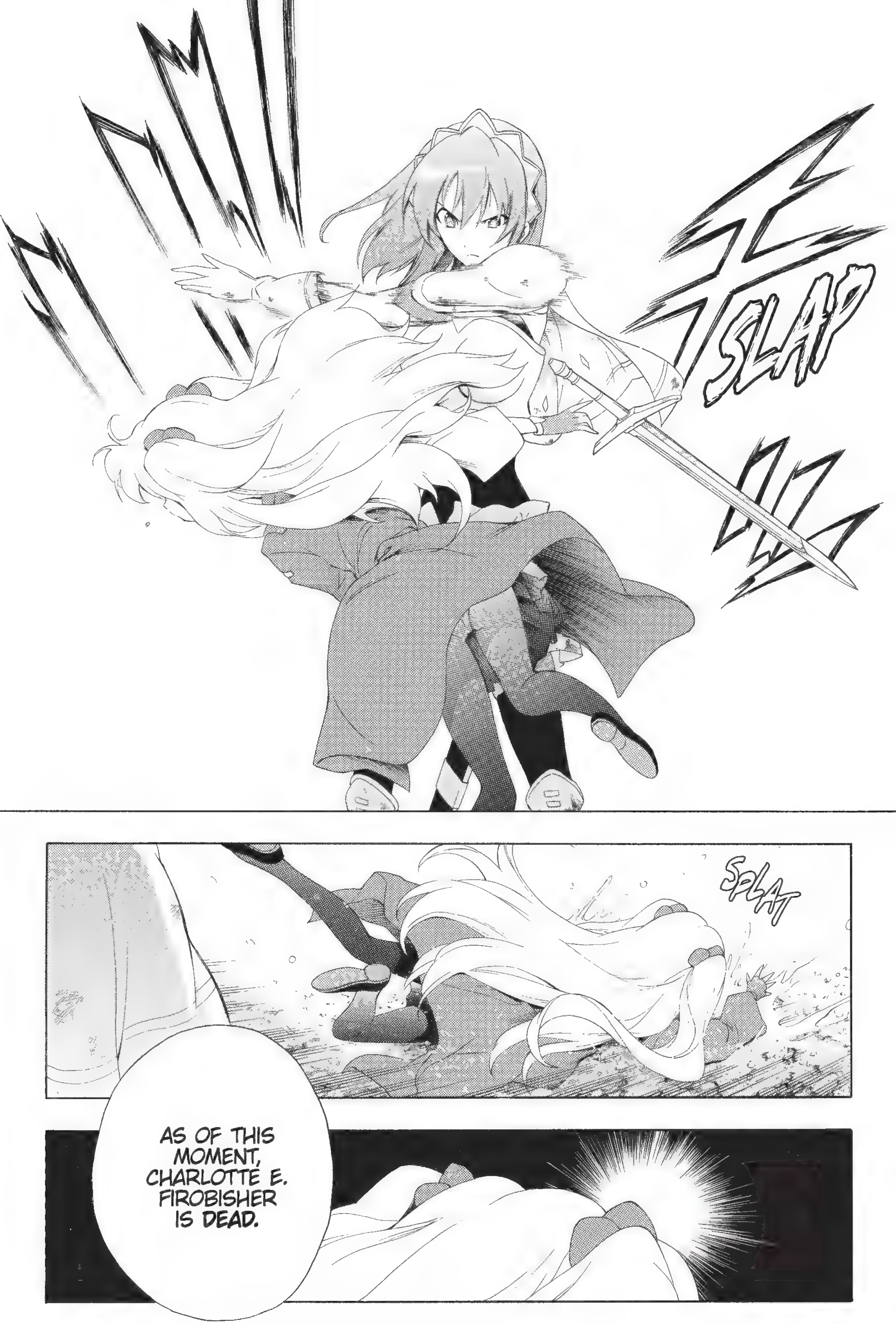

MAKE HER HAPPY!!
WHOO
OOOO
OOOO
OOOO
OOOM
FWOOOO

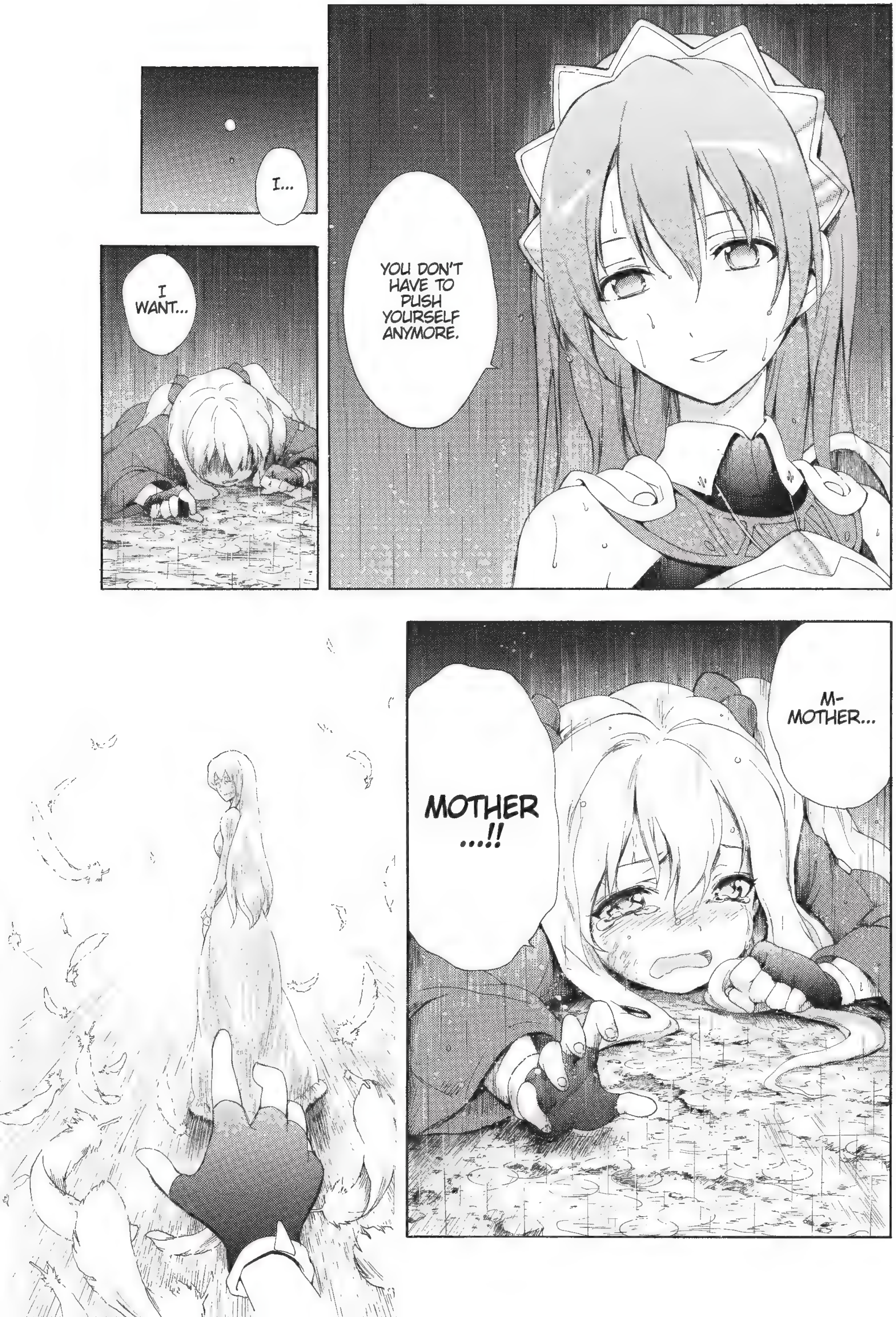

FSHHHHH
DORIS!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? HANG IN THERE!
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
LADY... CHARLOTTE...
YOU ARE GOING TO INSIST WE ACCEPT THE OFFER OF ASYLUM, AREN'T YOU...
CECILY?
BUT WHAT WILL THAT DO?

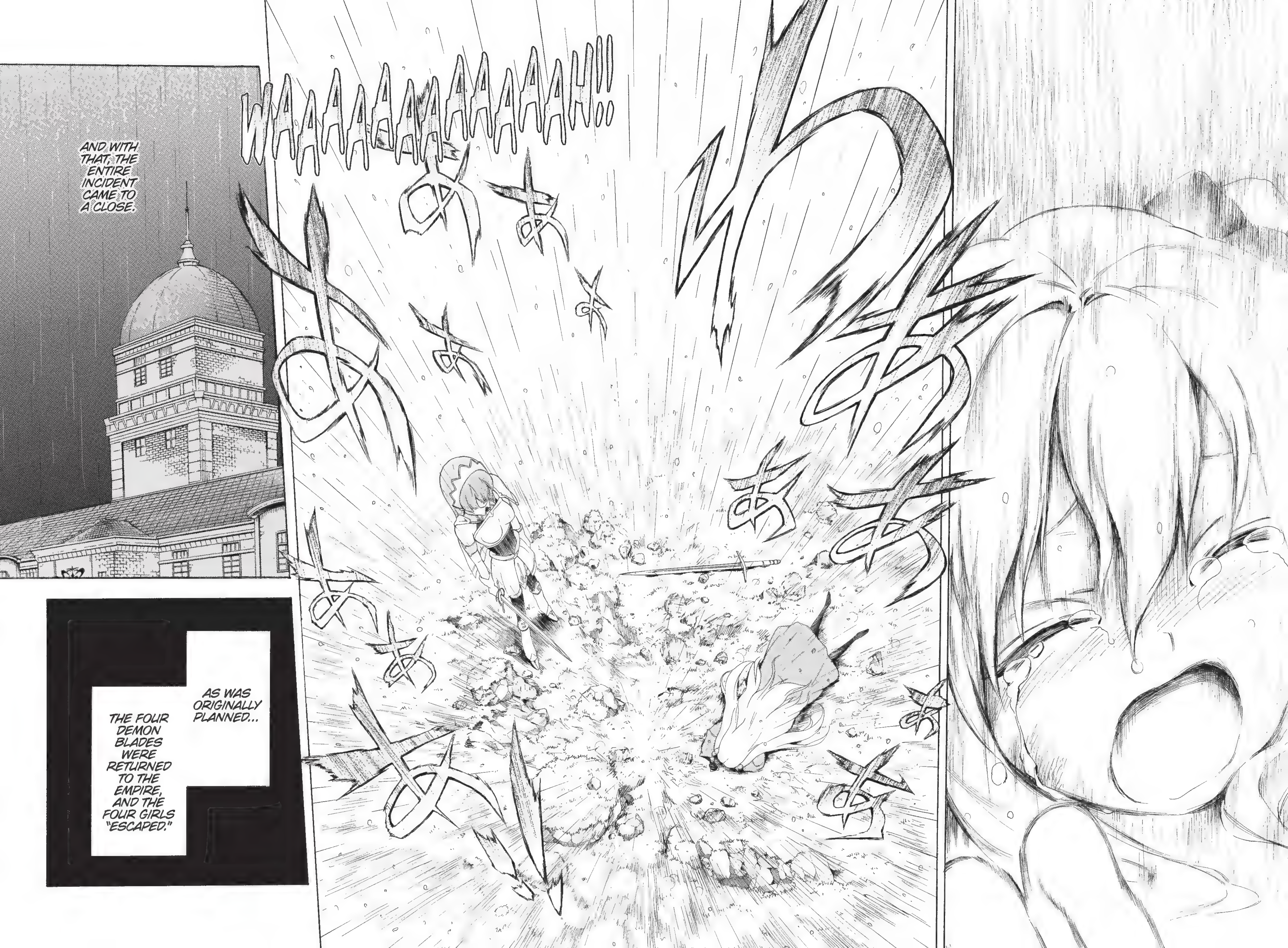

AM I JUST TO ALLOW SOME FOREIGN NATION TO TAKE ME IN OUT OF *PITY?!* AM I TO SELL OUT MY HOMELAND AND LIVE IN CONSTANT **FEAR** OF THEIR SHADOW?!
WHAT IS THE POINT OF LIVING A LONG, SHELTERED LIFE IN THE MILITANT NATION...
IT'S BETTER THAN DEATH.
SHING
IF IT MEANS I MUST **GIVE UP** MY MOTHER'S MEMORY?!
IF YOU STILL REFUSE, TAKE UP THIS SWORD.
THUK
BUT KNOW THAT ONLY BY *LIVING*...
CAN YOU TRULY KEEP YOUR HONOR.

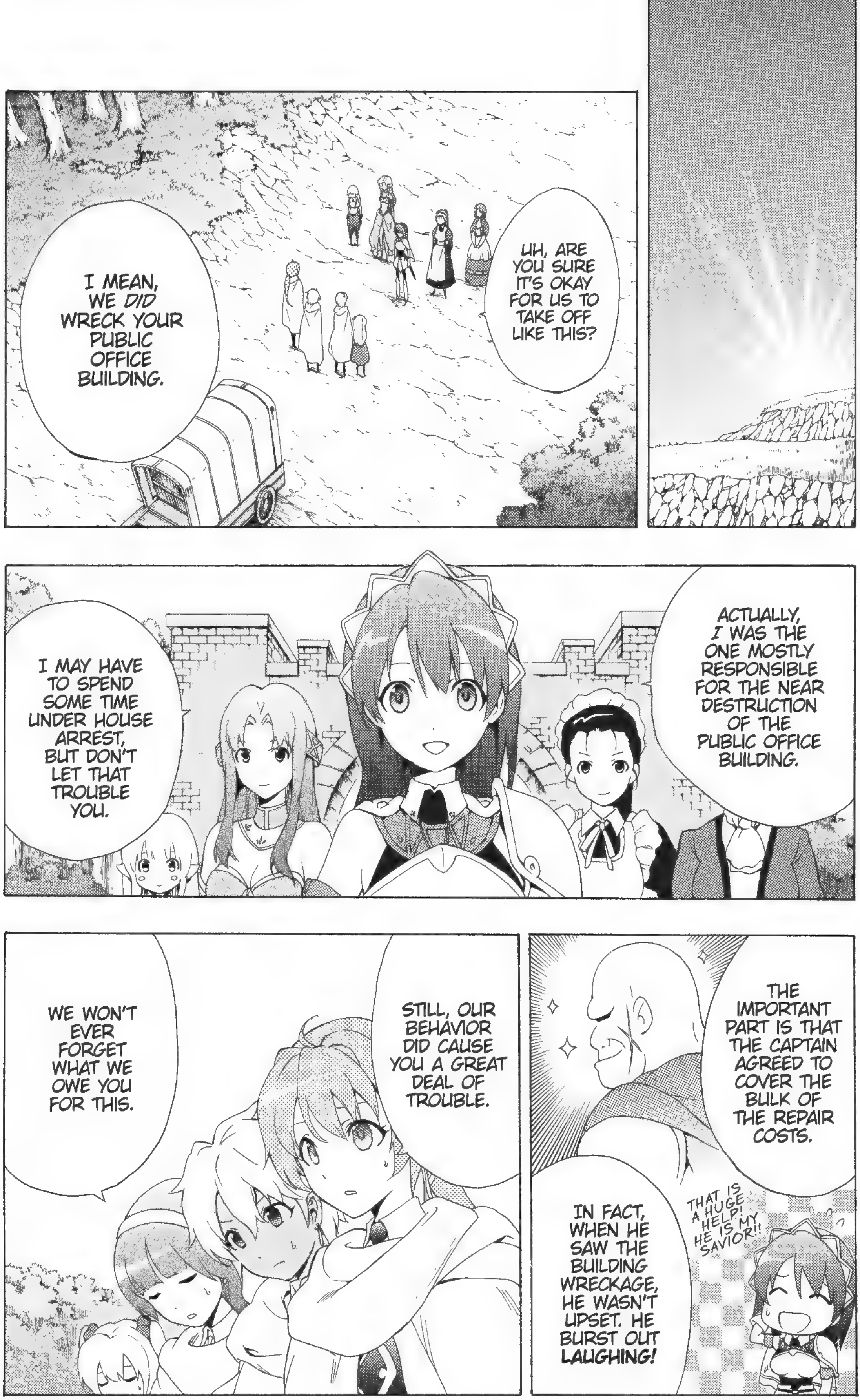

FSSSHHHH
I...
I WANTED TO GIVE MY MOTHER'S LIFE MEANING.
I KNOW.
I...
I WANTED MOTHER TO...
TO BE *HAPPY.*
I KNOW.

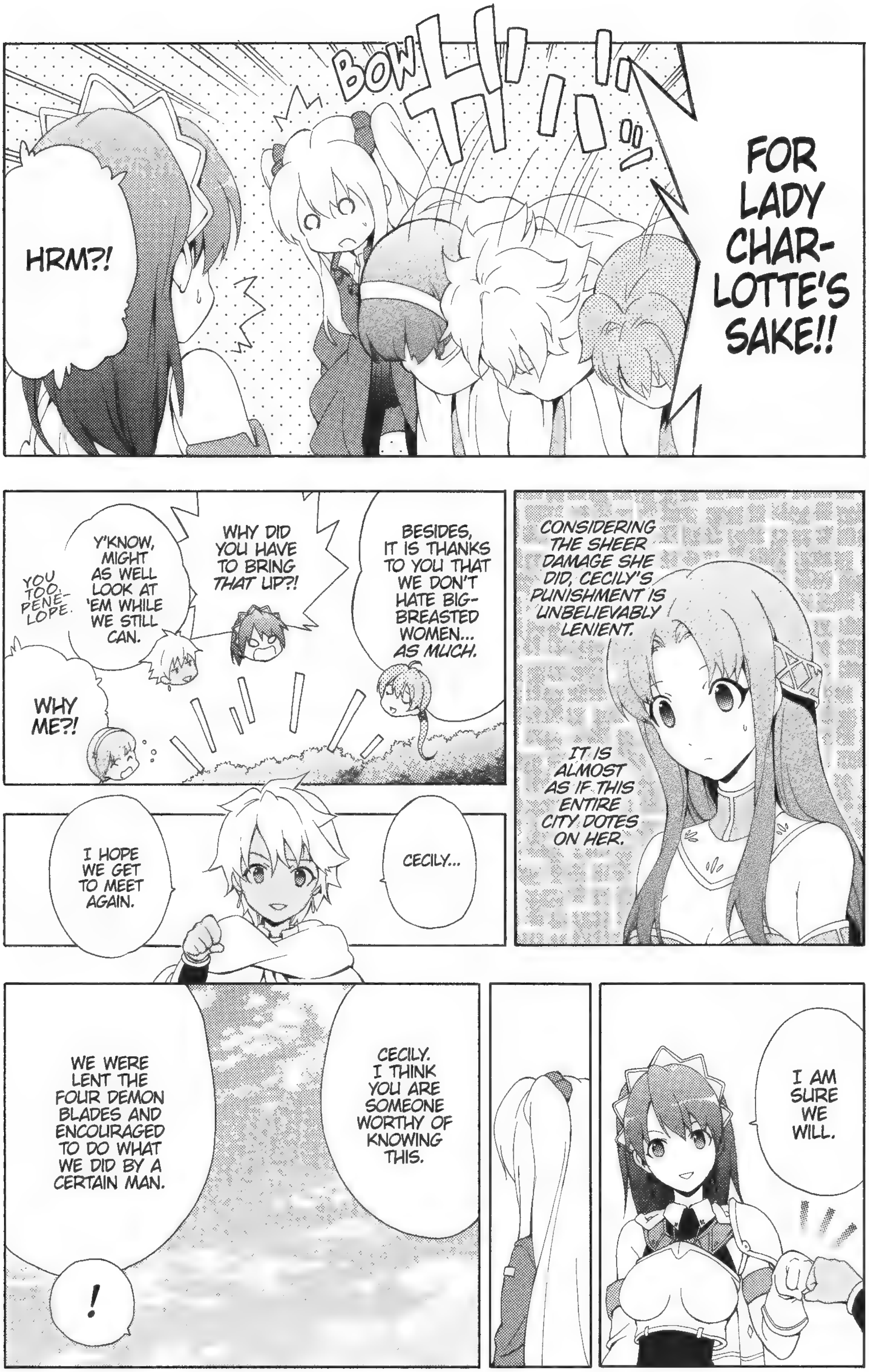

I WANTED MOTHER TO...
GRAB
AAAAH!!

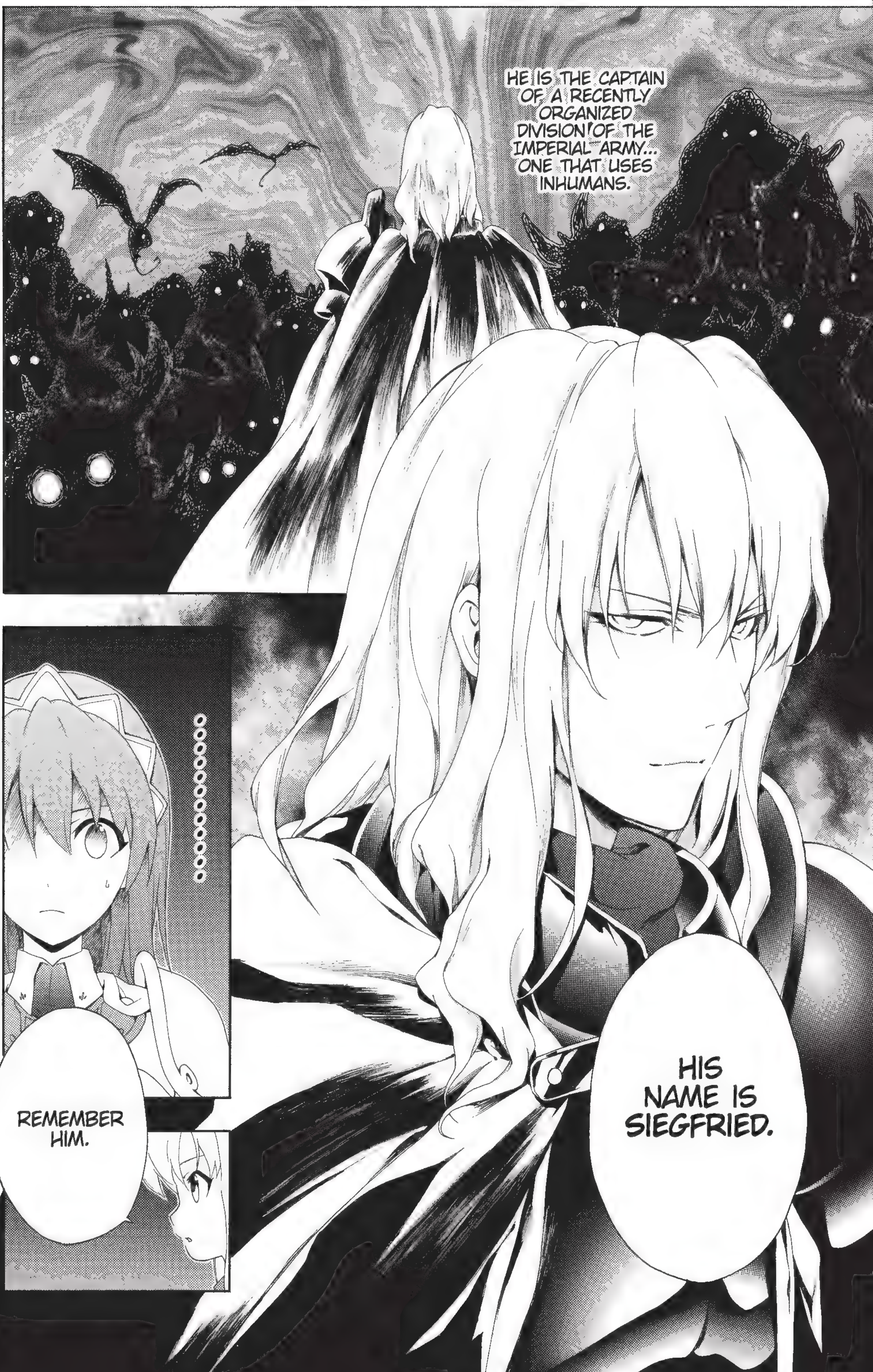

SLAP
SPLAT
AS OF THIS MOMENT, CHARLOTTE E. FIROBISHER IS **DEAD.**

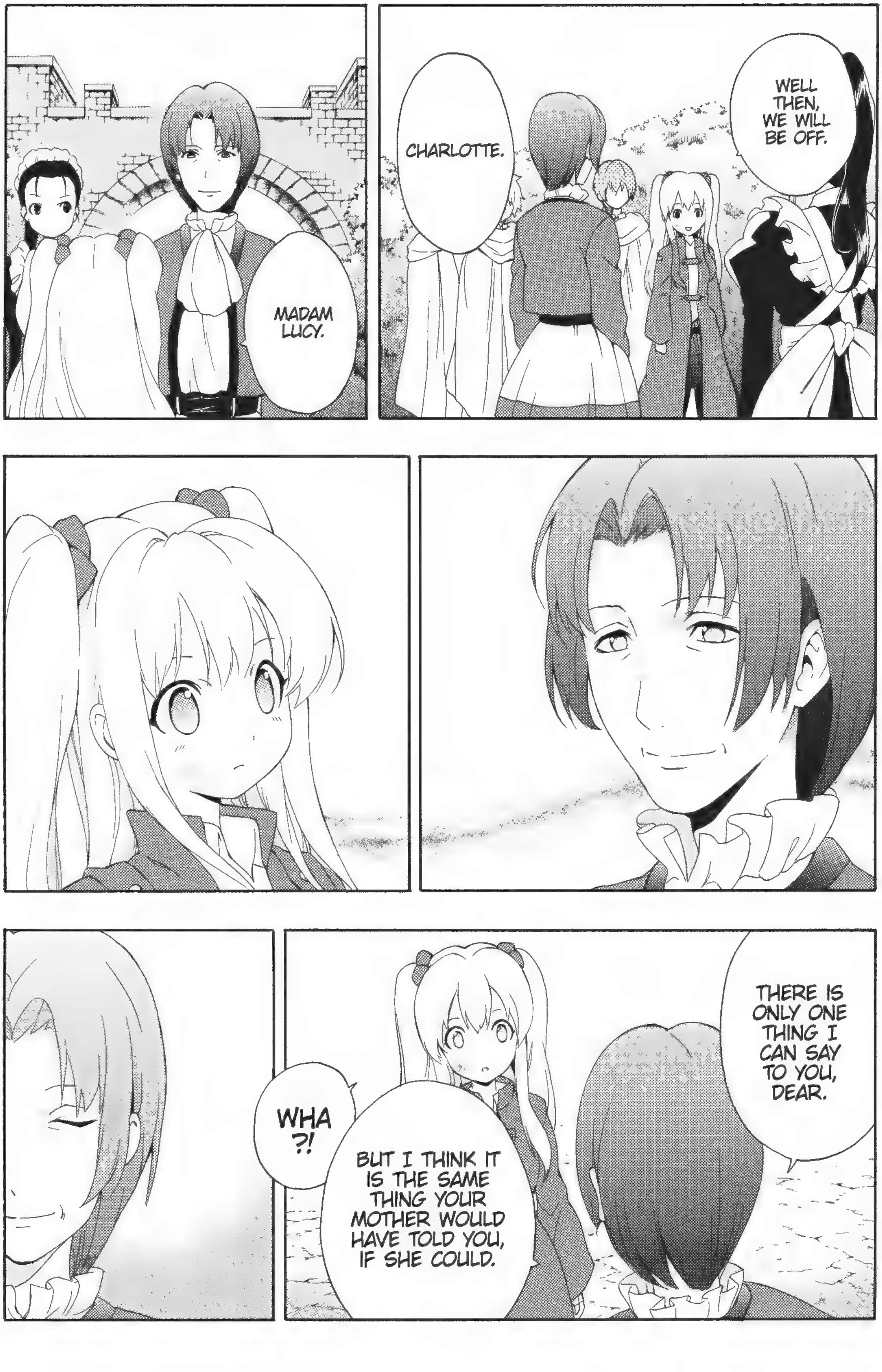

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUSH YOURSELF ANYMORE.
I...
I WANT...
M-MOTHER...
MOTHER ...!!

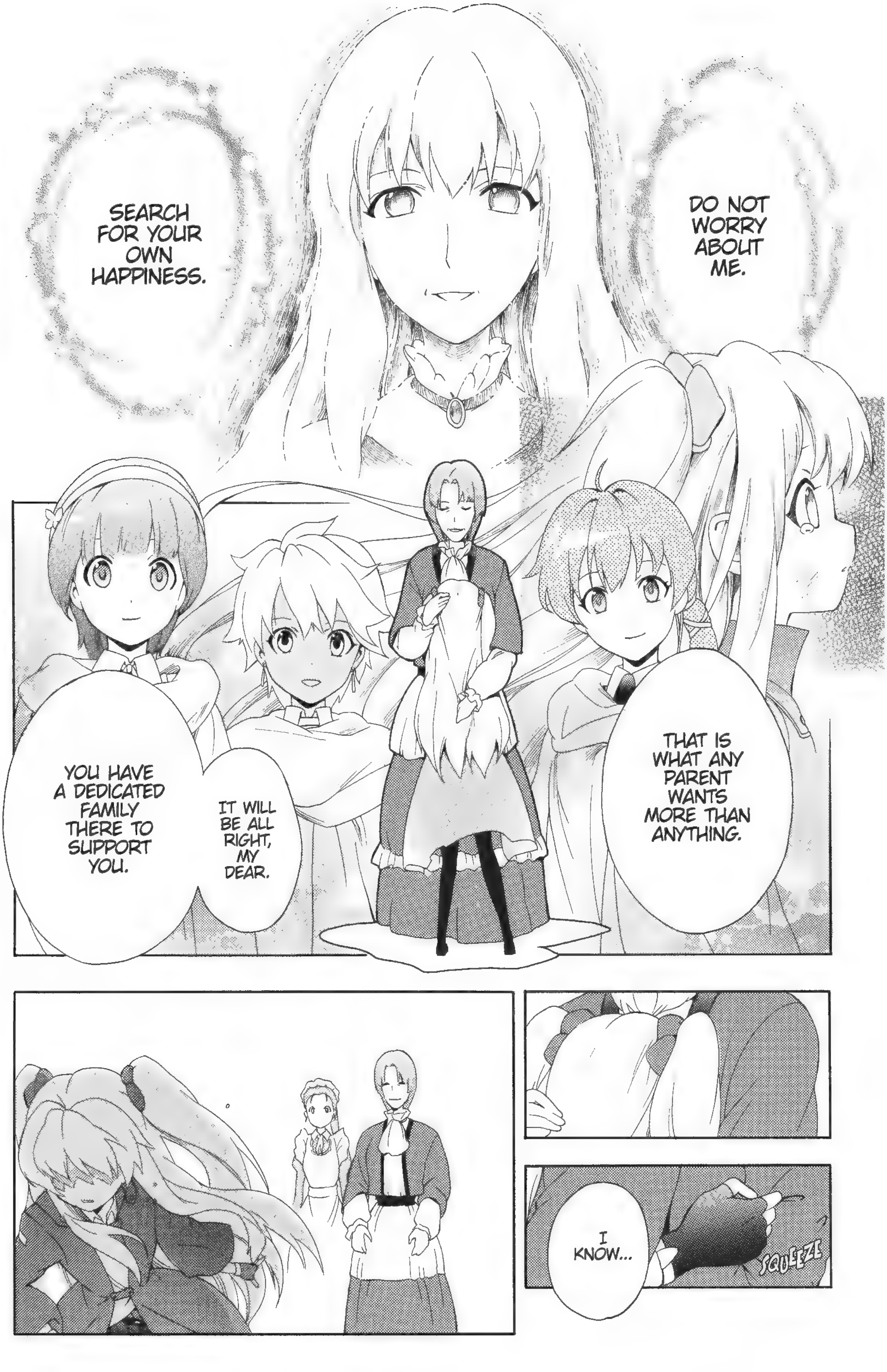

WAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!
AND WITH THAT, THE ENTIRE INCIDENT CAME TO A CLOSE.
AS WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED...
THE FOUR DEMON BLADES WERE RETURNED TO THE EMPIRE, AND THE FOUR GIRLS "ESCAPED."

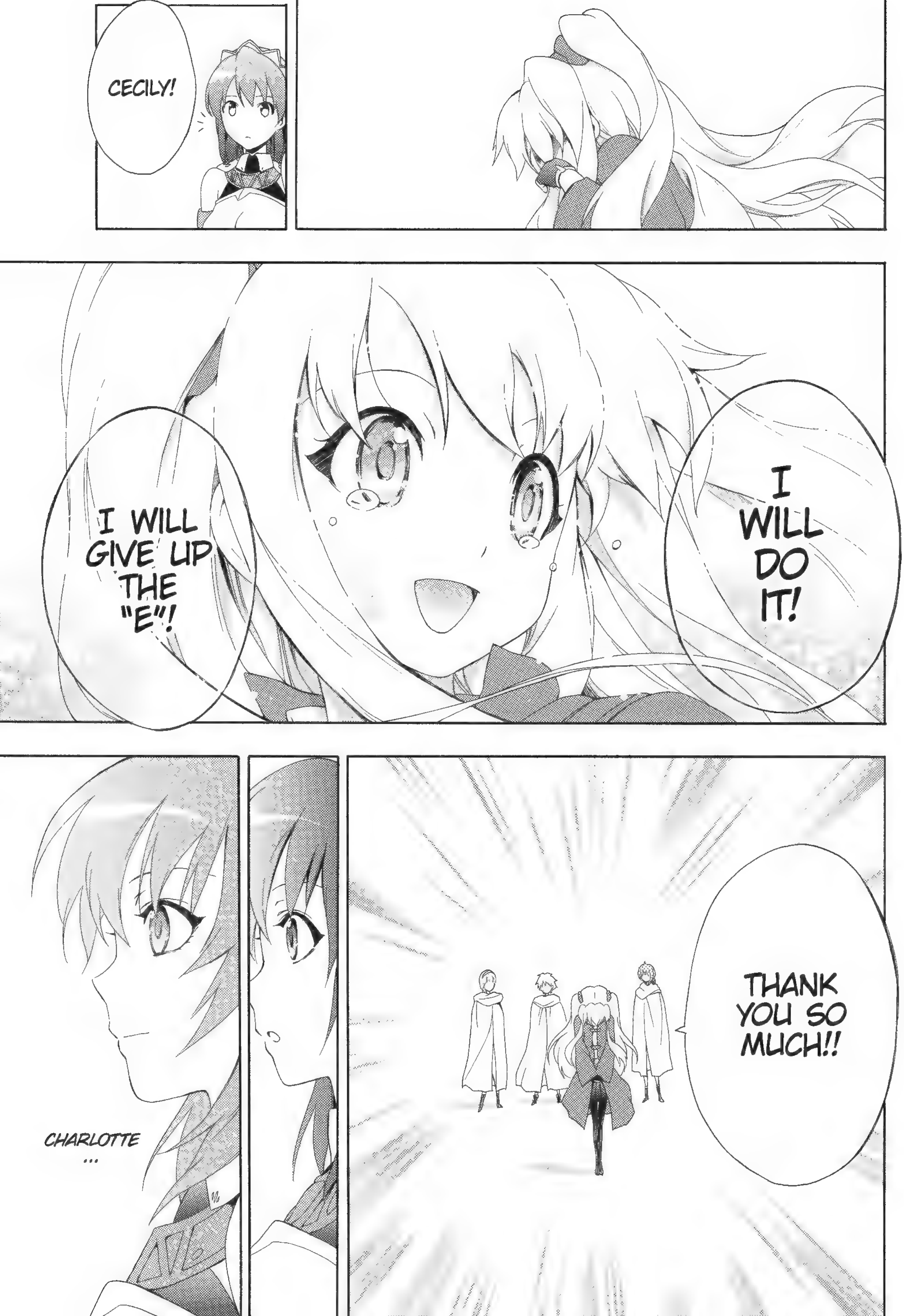

UH, ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY FOR US TO TAKE OFF LIKE THIS?
I MEAN, WE *DID* WRECK YOUR PUBLIC OFFICE BUILDING.
ACTUALLY, *I* WAS THE ONE MOSTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEAR DESTRUCTION OF THE PUBLIC OFFICE BUILDING.
I MAY HAVE TO SPEND SOME TIME UNDER HOUSE ARREST, BUT DON'T LET THAT TROUBLE YOU.
THE IMPORTANT PART IS THAT THE CAPTAIN AGREED TO COVER THE BULK OF THE REPAIR COSTS.
IN FACT, WHEN HE SAW THE BUILDING WRECKAGE, HE WASN'T UPSET. HE BURST OUT **LAUGHING!**
THAT IS A HUGE HELP! HE IS MY SAVIOR!!
STILL, OUR BEHAVIOR DID CAUSE YOU A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE.
WE WON'T EVER FORGET WHAT WE OWE YOU FOR THIS.

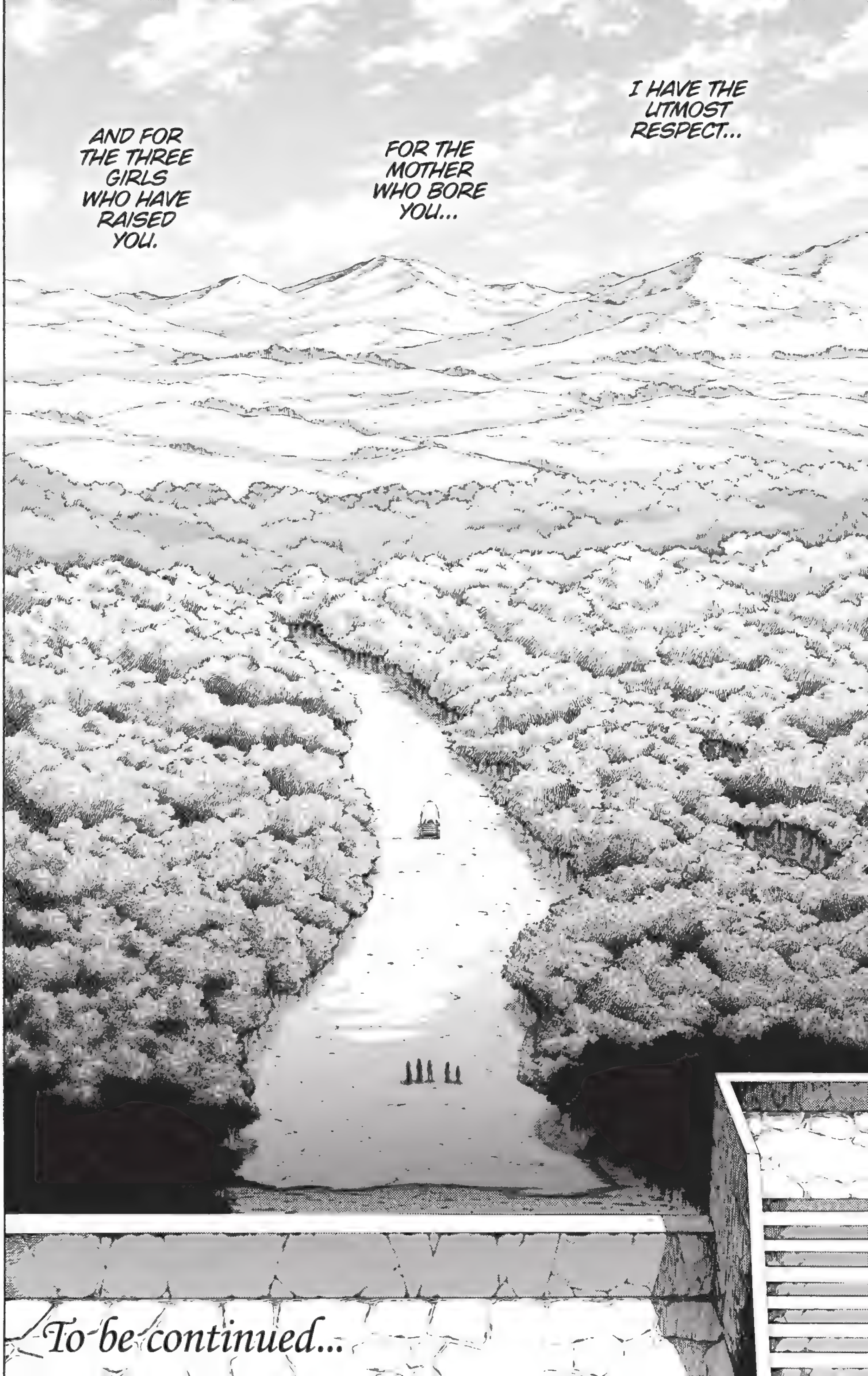

FOR LADY CHARLOTTE'S SAKE!!
BOWWW
HRM?!
CONSIDERING THE SHEER DAMAGE SHE DID, CECILY'S PUNISHMENT IS UNBELIEVABLY LENIENT.
IT IS ALMOST AS IF THIS ENTIRE CITY DOTES ON HER.
BESIDES, IT IS THANKS TO YOU THAT WE DON'T HATE BIG-BREASTED WOMEN... *AS MUCH.*
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BRING *THAT* UP?!
Y'KNOW, MIGHT AS WELL LOOK AT 'EM WHILE WE STILL CAN.
YOU TOO, PENELOPE.
WHY ME?!
CECILY...
I HOPE WE GET TO MEET AGAIN.
I AM SURE WE WILL.
CECILY. I THINK YOU ARE SOMEONE WORTHY OF KNOWING THIS.
WE WERE LENT THE FOUR DEMON BLADES AND ENCOURAGED TO DO WHAT WE DID BY A CERTAIN MAN.
!

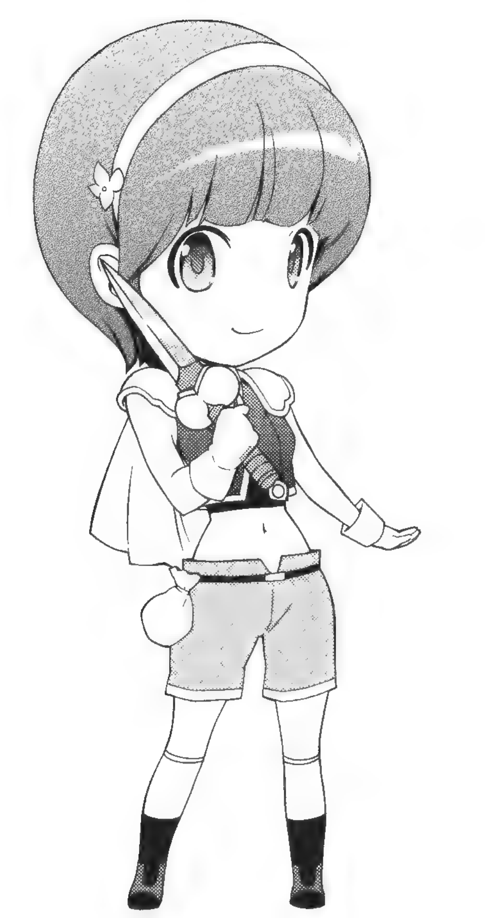

HE IS THE CAPTAIN OF A RECENTLY ORGANIZED DIVISION OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY... ONE THAT USES INHUMANS.
HIS NAME IS SIEGFRIED.
…………
REMEMBER HIM.


WELL THEN, WE WILL BE OFF.
CHARLOTTE.
MADAM LUCY.
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I CAN SAY TO YOU, DEAR.
WHA?!
BUT I THINK IT IS THE SAME THING YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU, IF SHE COULD.


DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME.
SEARCH FOR YOUR OWN HAPPINESS.
THAT IS WHAT ANY PARENT WANTS MORE THAN ANYTHING.
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR.
YOU HAVE A DEDICATED FAMILY THERE TO SUPPORT YOU.
SQUEEZE
I KNOW...


CECILY!
I WILL DO IT!
I WILL GIVE UP THE "E"!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
CHARLOTTE ...


I HAVE THE UTMOST RESPECT...
FOR THE MOTHER WHO BORE YOU...
AND FOR THE THREE GIRLS WHO HAVE RAISED YOU.
To be continued...



Penelope

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶（ブラックスミス）

Charlotte's

Let's Learn Blacksmithing Corner!

Did you enjoy *The Sacred Blacksmith* Volume 3?
As a special treat, I have decided to conduct today's "Let's Learn Blacksmithing!" corner in Lisa's stead.
The previous two Corners focused on how Luke's katana is forged.
This time, let us take a look at the Demon Blades that make an appearance in the main story. Follow me closely, everyone!

Class #3: The Demon Blade Models

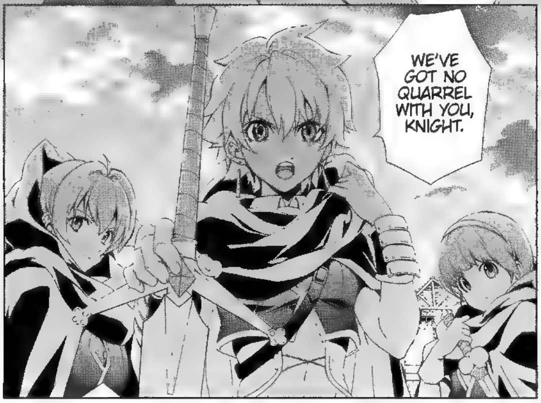
Mysterious New Swords Have Appeared!

Take a look at the swords which served as models.

In *The Sacred Blacksmith,* there are several Demon Blades besides Aria that make an appearance. In Volume 3, we witness my debut, and with me comes not one, but *four* new blades. We have not yet been able to showcase the powers of Demon Blade Evadne (a flamberge), but there were many scenes depicting the various strengths of Doris, Margot, and Penelope's three Blades.

As Luke's sword was modeled off of the Japanese katana, these three new Blades have also been modeled off of existing sword types. A closer look at these historical swords will show that they are just as unique as their Demon Blade versions in the story.

So which swords are they? Well, there is the rapier (Aria), the claymore (Doris), the rhomphair (Margot) and the ballock knife (Penelope). Allow me to explain a little about them.


WE'VE GOT NO QUARREL WITH YOU, KNIGHT.

These blades do not actually have the power to summon the wind or create fissures in the earth like Aria and Doris' claymore, of course. However, that does not mean these blades did not have an impact! Turn the page to learn more...

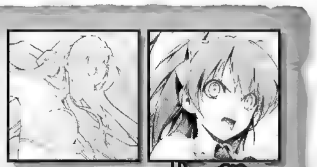
Demon Blade Model Diagrams

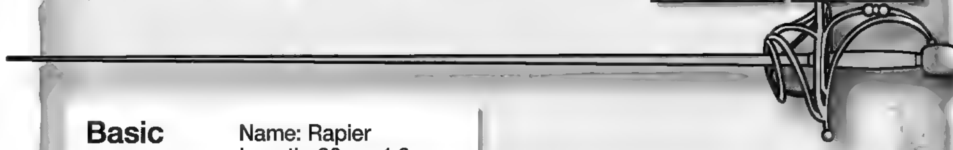
Here are some details and illustrations on the four swords used as models for the Demon Blades that appeared in this volume of *The Sacred Blacksmith*. Check it out!☆

Let's take a look at the real-life versions of the three new Demon Blades, and Aria's sword-form, as well.

レイピア

● Name: Demon Blade Aria
● Wielder: Cecily





Basic Details

Name: Rapier
Length: 90cm~1.2m
Weight: 1.5kg
Era: 16-17th century

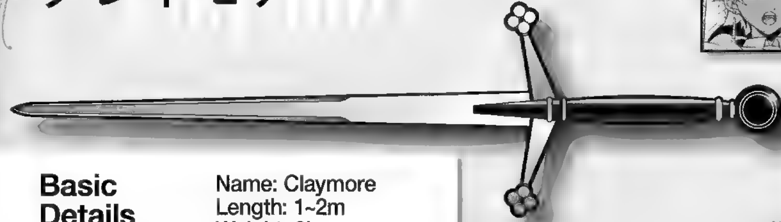
The model for Demon Blade Aria is a sword called a "rapier." A sword designed for piercing, it has a slim blade and a very sharp point. Its full name, *epee-rapiere*, is French. Epee = sword, rapiere = piercing. It was first developed in Europe's middle ages. As the proliferation of guns rendered traditional armor useless, and as more people flocked to cities and castle towns with narrow streets, Europeans looked for ways to defend themselves in tight places. A rapier is a sword useful for both attack and defense, and it is handy in a pinch when challenged to a duel. Rapiers can be wielded with one hand, while the other hand holds a parrying-dagger, used to deflect the opponent's strikes.

● Swept Hilt

Rapiers are swords useful for defense, as well as attack. Their hilts are often decorated with ornate, sweeping metalwork. Called "swept hilts," these decorations were actually meant to protect the wielder's hand and provide a means to entangle or even snap the opponent's blade.

クレイモア

● Wielder: Doris



Basic Details

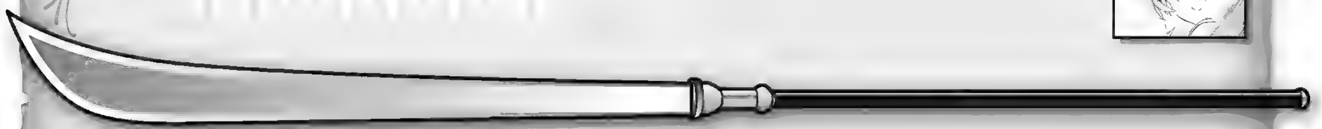
Name: Claymore
Length: 1~2m
Weight: 3kg
Era: 16th century

SHING
EN GARDE, CECILY CAMPBELL!!

A crosspiece angled towards the sword's tip, and complex circular designs on the crosspiece's ends mark a sword as a claymore. The term "claymore" is an English version of the original Gaelic word, *claidheamh mòr*, which means "great sword." Used primarily by the peoples who lived in the Scottish Highlands, a claymore is designed for slashing. It is one of the smaller two-handed swords in European history, and it can be used to make very quick swings. Used mostly in the 16th century, claymores are a stage in the transition between big, heavy two-handed swords designed to club heavily-armored opponents and the bastard-sword, a later-era blade made to hack and slash at lightly-armored opponents.

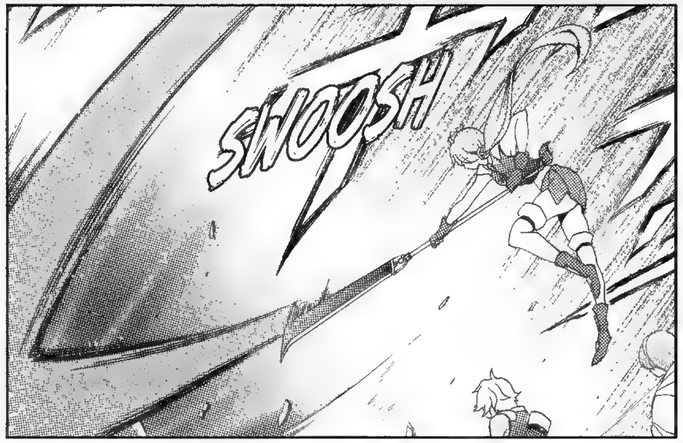
ロンパイア

● Wielder: Margot



Basic Details

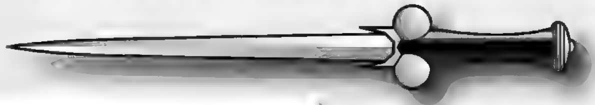
Name: Rhomphair
Length: 1~2m
Weight: 2.5~5kg
Era: 3rd to 1st centuries BC



Also called a "rhomphaia," the rhomphair was originally used by the ancient Thracians who lived in Northern Greece. A two-handed weapon, its blade is slightly curved, like a scythe. And, just like a scythe, the inner edge of the curve is also sharpened. The hilt, which is made of wood, is usually the same length as the blade. It's said that, though too long to be used in close combat, it was still sharp enough to cut the legs out from an enemy's horse. It is also said that once they defeated an enemy, the Thracians would stick his head on the end of their rhomphair and use it to intimidate their foes! So frightening!

ボロックナイフ

● Wielder: Penelope



Basic Details

Name: Ballock Knife
Length: 20~30cm
Weight: 0.4~0.5kg
Era: 12th~14th century

A type of dagger, ballock knives were not only used for close-quarters fighting; they were often used to deliver the killing blow to the mortally wounded as well. They feature two, ah, *distinct* metal spheres on the hilt. To be blunt, the name "ballock" comes from those spheres, which very closely resemble, er... male genitalia, "bollocks."

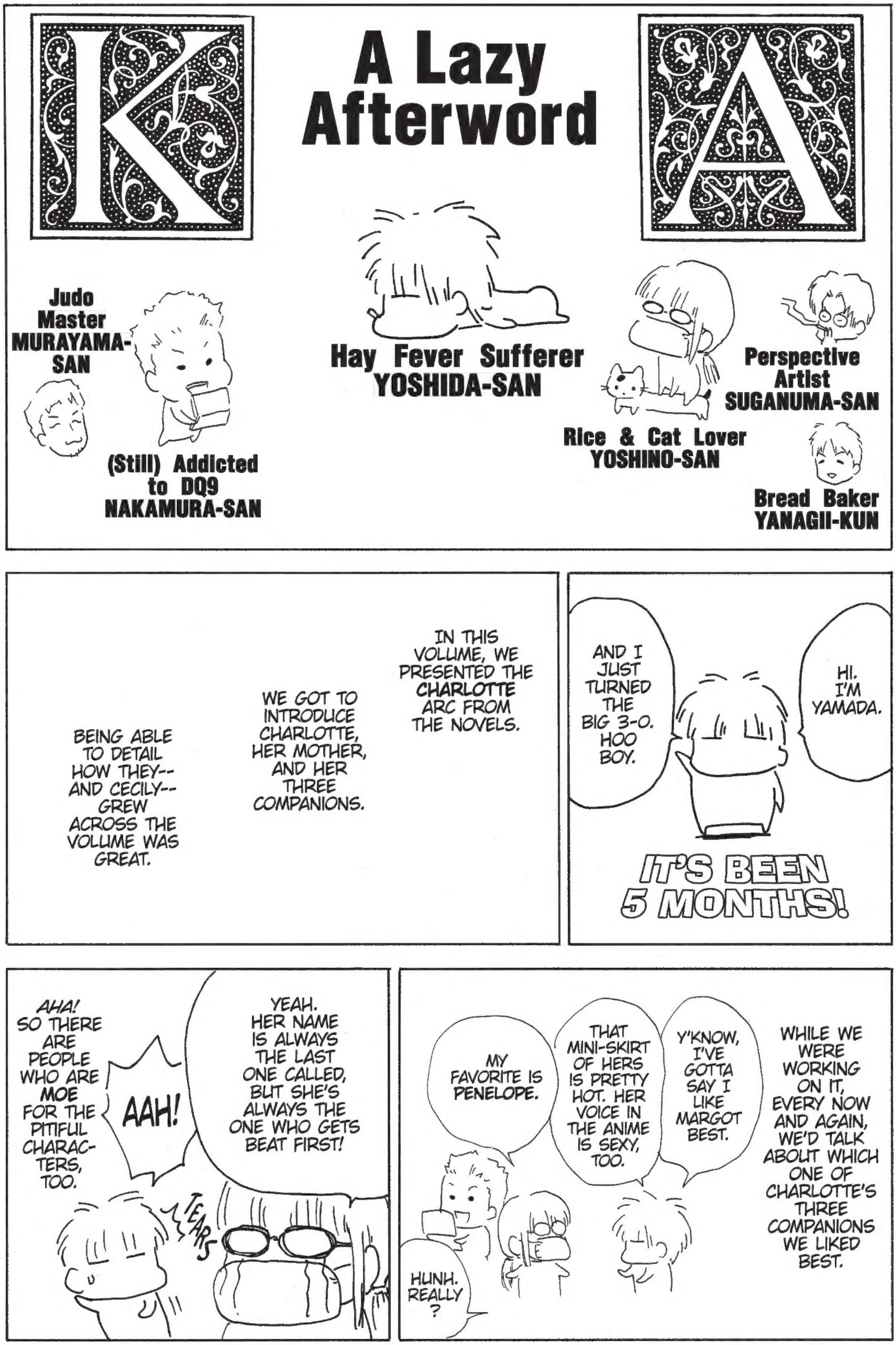
It was even said that ballock knives were for men's use only! The spherical shape was intended not only as a guard to protect the hand from enemy strikes, but also as handholds to help the wielder yank it out of a stabbed foe. But the, uh... overall image of the blade is still the most striking thing about it.

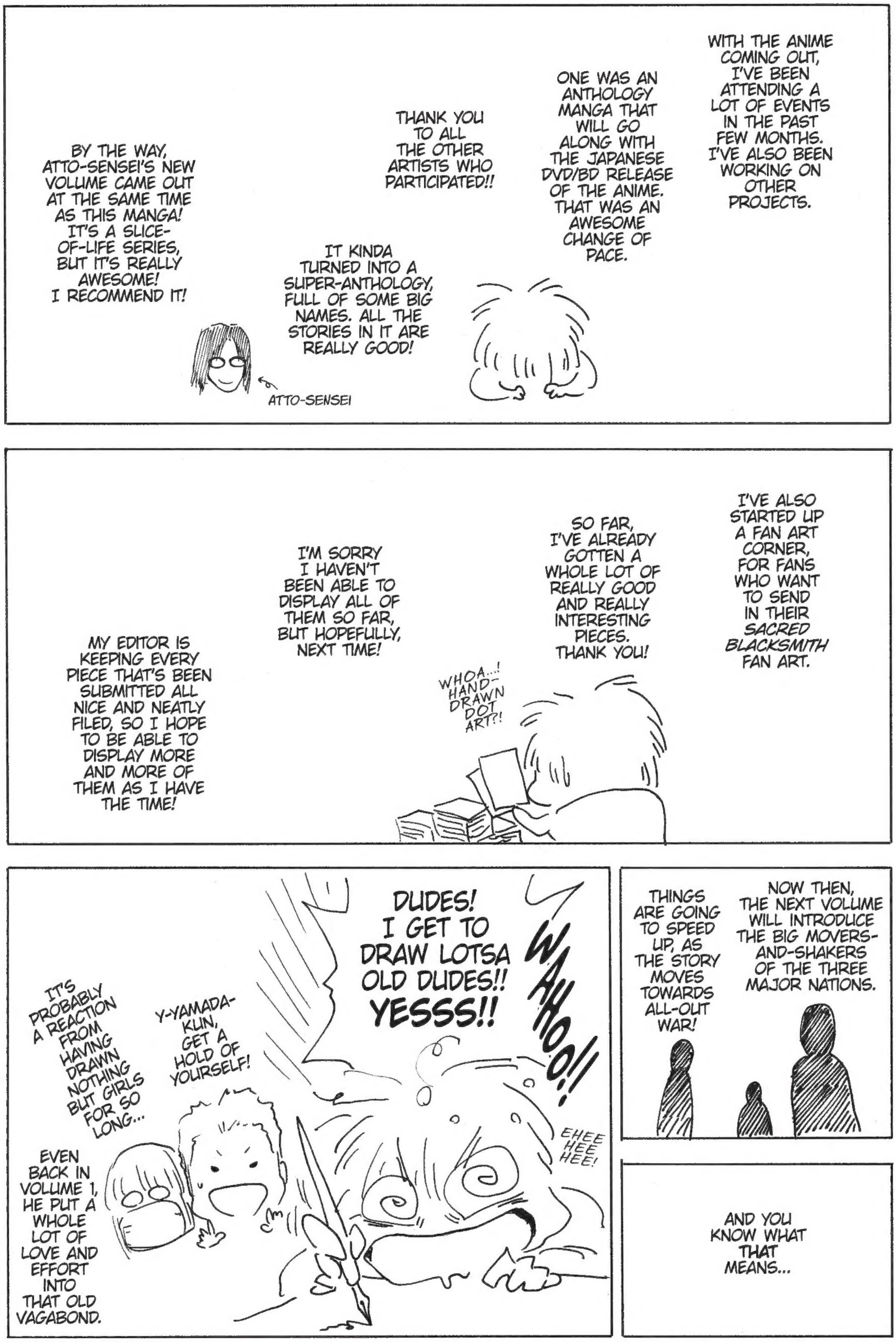
Though they may all be called "swords" each of these weapons is very different, created by the very different eras and circumstances in which they were used. It's interesting pieces of trivia like this that help to make the world of *The Sacred Blacksmith* that much deeper!

Well, I hope this corner made the world of *The Sacred Blacksmith* a little more interesting to you. Personally, I look forward to the next "Let's Learn Blacksmithing!" Corner just as much as the main story!♪

See You Next Time!

A Lazy Afterword


Judo Master MURAYAMA-SAN
(Still) Addicted to DQ9 NAKAMURA-SAN
Hay Fever Sufferer YOSHIDA-SAN
Rice & Cat Lover YOSHINO-SAN
Perspective Artist SUGANUMA-SAN
Bread Baker YANAGII-KUN
HI. I'M YAMADA.
AND I JUST TURNED THE BIG 3-0. HOO BOY.
IT'S BEEN 5 MONTHS!
IN THIS VOLUME, WE PRESENTED THE **CHARLOTTE** ARC FROM THE NOVELS.
WE GOT TO INTRODUCE CHARLOTTE, HER MOTHER, AND HER THREE COMPANIONS.
BEING ABLE TO DETAIL HOW THEY--AND CECILY--GREW ACROSS THE VOLUME WAS GREAT.
WHILE WE WERE WORKING ON IT, EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, WE'D TALK ABOUT WHICH ONE OF CHARLOTTE'S THREE COMPANIONS WE LIKED BEST.
Y'KNOW, I'VE GOTTA SAY I LIKE MARGOT BEST.
THAT MINI-SKIRT OF HERS IS PRETTY HOT. HER VOICE IN THE ANIME IS SEXY, TOO.
MY FAVORITE IS PENELOPE.
HUNH. REALLY?
YEAH. HER NAME IS ALWAYS THE LAST ONE CALLED, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS THE ONE WHO GETS BEAT FIRST!
AAH!
TEARS
AHA! SO THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE **MOE** FOR THE PITIFUL CHARACTERS, TOO.


WITH THE ANIME COMING OUT, I'VE BEEN ATTENDING A LOT OF EVENTS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. I'VE ALSO BEEN WORKING ON OTHER PROJECTS.
ONE WAS AN ANTHOLOGY MANGA THAT WILL GO ALONG WITH THE JAPANESE DVD/BD RELEASE OF THE ANIME. THAT WAS AN AWESOME CHANGE OF PACE.
THANK YOU TO ALL THE OTHER ARTISTS WHO PARTICIPATED!!
IT KINDA TURNED INTO A SUPER-ANTHOLOGY, FULL OF SOME BIG NAMES. ALL THE STORIES IN IT ARE REALLY GOOD!
BY THE WAY, ATTO-SENSEI'S NEW VOLUME CAME OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS THIS MANGA! IT'S A SLICE-OF-LIFE SERIES, BUT IT'S REALLY AWESOME! I RECOMMEND IT!
ATTO-SENSEI
I'VE ALSO STARTED UP A FAN ART CORNER, FOR FANS WHO WANT TO SEND IN THEIR *SACRED BLACKSMITH* FAN ART.
SO FAR, I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN A WHOLE LOT OF REALLY GOOD AND REALLY INTERESTING PIECES. THANK YOU!
I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DISPLAY ALL OF THEM SO FAR, BUT HOPEFULLY, NEXT TIME!
WHOA...! HAND-DRAWN DOT ART?!
MY EDITOR IS KEEPING EVERY PIECE THAT'S BEEN SUBMITTED ALL NICE AND NEATLY FILED, SO I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DISPLAY MORE AND MORE OF THEM AS I HAVE THE TIME!
NOW THEN, THE NEXT VOLUME WILL INTRODUCE THE BIG MOVERS-AND-SHAKERS OF THE THREE MAJOR NATIONS.
THINGS ARE GOING TO SPEED UP, AS THE STORY MOVES TOWARDS ALL-OUT WAR!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
WAHOO!!
DUDES! I GET TO DRAW LOTSA OLD DUDES!! YESSS!!
EHEE HEE HEE!
Y-YAMADA-KUN, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
IT'S PROBABLY A REACTION FROM HAVING DRAWN NOTHING BUT GIRLS FOR SO LONG...
EVEN BACK IN VOLUME 1, HE PUT A WHOLE LOT OF LOVE AND EFFORT INTO THAT OLD VAGABOND.

The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶
VOLUME 3
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art by Kotaro Yamada
Character Design Luna

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THE SACRED BLACKSMITH VOLUME 3

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This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!